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SAMUDRA REPORT

THE TRIANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIVE IN SUPPORT OF FISHWORKERS

Seychelles' Blue Bond Scheme

Brazil Oil Spill

RISE UP Blue Call to Action

Vietnam's Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management

SSF Guidelines

Indonesia's Octopus Fishery

Fisheries, Communities, Livelihoods

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ALAIN LE SANN

FRONT COVER

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BACK COVER

Fishermen and fishing craft, Guinea Conakry by Julien Million/FAO

ALAIN LE SANN

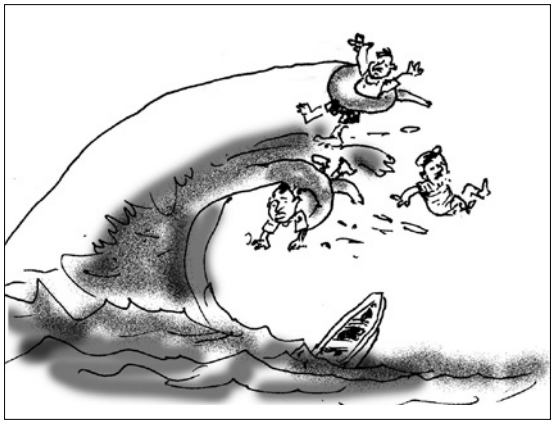
Fishers prepare a small dredge for clams in Lorient, France

Tangled up in blue

Healthy oceans and coastal communities cannot exist without investments in the long-term sustainability, social development and values of small-scale fisheries

The importance of oceans to sustainable development has always been recognized in international processes. It is articulated in Agenda 21 (1992), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002) and the 2012 Rio+20 outcome document titled The Future We Want. Concern for the deteriorating health of the oceans culminated in a dedicated goal to conserve and sustainably use marine resources in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Simultaneously, technological innovation, merged with global capital's perennial pursuit of new avenues for investment, has led many to see the oceans as Earth's last economic frontier. In 2016, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projected that by 2030, the 'Blue Economy'—a collective term for all economic sectors with a direct or indirect link to the ocean—could outperform the growth of the global economy as a whole. In various formulations by multilateral agencies, national governments and the private sector, this ocean economy includes both old uses of coastal and marine resources (food provisioning, marine transport and infrastructure, energy production, extraction and tourism) and emerging industries (for example, marine biotechnology, seabed mining, carbon sequestration). Thus, what emerged as a vague reformulation of the 'green economy' to benefit small island developing states (SIDS) and the coastal least developed countries (LDCs) has become a global buzzword, noticeable in many conferences and events and in the growing body of literature on the subject.



Social movements and civil society advocates for fishers and fishworkers have tracked this blue economy and blue growth discourse with some unease. These 'blue' agendas have been criticized for not recognizing the contributions of capture fisheries, particularly small-scale fisheries, to global nutrition and food security and livelihoods; for the promotion of inequitable rights-based management and spatial-planning approaches for coastal and marine natural resources; and, in some instances, for encouraging investments in large-scale infrastructure and extractive industries that can threaten coastal communities and the ecosystems they depend on.

In this edition of the SAMUDRA Report, an article on the Seychelles' Blue Bond scheme addresses some of the contradictions inherent in these 'blue' agendas. Tourism and fish exports drive the Seychelles economy, while crucial commodities such as oil and gas have to be imported. The country has introduced stricter fishing regulations while expanding oil-and-gas exploration in its exclusive economic zone. It is important that we recognize both, the compulsions of developing countries seeking economic self-sufficiency and the vulnerabilities of traditional coastal communities, who are often sidelined as a result.

The 'RISE UP Blue Call to Action', also in this edition, is itself a document that embodies these contradictions. The petition, signed by a group of non-governmental organizations and philanthropic foundations, retains hope in the transition to a sustainable economy through improved governance, innovation and more protection, including the use of area-based conservation measures in some contexts. Crucially, it calls on governments to recognize and protect fishing communities' rights to resources and the immediate implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines).

The SSF Guidelines recognize the multiple and often conflicting uses of marine and coastal resources. They call for the active participation of fishing communities in decision making. Environmental accounting must incorporate more than economic value to consider the holistic contributions of fisheries to the lives and livelihoods of coastal communities. Marine spatial planning should be inclusive and take due account of small-scale fisheries interests and role in management, and also effectively address their concerns.

In order for the ocean to remain healthy and for coastal populations to thrive, countries should invest in the long-term sustainability of their fisheries and the social development of the communities they support. In this context, small-scale fisheries offer justice for the lives of the vulnerable and marginalized above and on the shores of our seas and oceans. The values of small-scale fisheries are just as important as their contributions to nutrition, employment and local economies. They sustain communities and their cultures and symbolize the judicious use of resources to benefit present and future generations, a core principle of sustainable development. Conditions favourable to preserving these values should be maintained.

Beyond Dramatic Imagery

While Seychelles Blue Bond scheme for conservation funding is often portrayed in glowing terms, the initiative has several inherent contradictions

In 2011, Seychelles began a collaboration with The Nature Conservancy to restructure the country's debt and plan a new conservation area. The so-called 'debt-for-nature swap' freed up funds from Seychelles' cumbersome national debt, helping fund a new conservation area with 'no-take' and 'sustainable use' zones. The deal was finalized in 2016. Since then, media outlets around the world have hailed the project that has now rezoned approximately 350,915 sq km of ocean as conservation area.

Such staggering numbers make it easy to rally behind the effort. Headlines like 'Seychelles preserves swathes of marine territory in debt-for-nature deal', or gimmicks like 'Debt for dolphins' appeared in British media outlets in early 2018, after the first areas were protected. In October 2018, the hype shifted to Seychelles' launch of the Blue Bond for conservation funding. It is an additional financing mechanism for conservation and development.

The initiative uses marine spatial planning to minimize conflict among ocean activities. Yet it has invited to the negotiating table industries with a poor environmental track record, including tourism and aquaculture entities. What's more contentious, though, is the presence of industries like oil and gas exploration. It is also not clear exactly how debt-for-nature swaps and blue bonds promote conservation success and sustainable development.

Seychelles needs alternative funding for conservation because its economy depends on sustainable use of marine resources.

*This article is by **Patrick John Bolliger** (patrick.bolliger@nmbu.no), a master's student in International Environmental Studies at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), Ås, Norway*

The Nature Conservancy hopes to replicate this model in other countries, claiming that 'everybody wins' from this debt swap. (See the TedTalk titled 'An ingenious proposal for scaling up marine protection'.) It is important to not take their word as a given. A critical analysis shows contradictions inherent to the initiative.

What is the Seychelles Blue Bond? How did it come about?

The Seychelles Blue Bond is a pilot project led by the World Bank. Interviews available online with representatives from the initiative suggest the idea was first discussed among Seychelles, the Prince of Wales' Charities International Sustainability Unit and the World Bank. The bond was devised to gather private capital from investors hoping to profit from projects that have positive environmental outcomes. Three US-based investment firms–Nuveen, Prudential Financial and Calvert Impact Capital–invested US$5 mn each in the bonds, hoping to receive in ten years their principal amounts plus interest.

Repayments of this US$15 mn, plus interest, will come from Seychelles' national budget. The World Bank and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) stepped in and reduced investor risk, lowering Seychelles' interest repayment costs by providing it additional credit and guarantees. Put simply, a 'blue' bond is like a regular bond, but the capital raised must go towards environmentally friendly projects related to the ocean.

Seychelles needs alternative funding for conservation because its economy depends on sustainable use of marine resources and is vulnerable amid global economic crises. Firstly, Seychelles' biggest revenues derive

from tourism arrivals and export of fish products, with a large share stemming from European markets. It has to import essential commodities like oil and gas and has been hit by increasing energy prices. It sits precariously at the whim of some European countries.

The country's foreign debt became too much for its small economy after the 2008-2009 global economic crisis. It forced the government to accept assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank; the loans were tied to austerity measures. Despite this, Seychelles has maintained a strong social welfare system. Besides, Seychelles is now categorized as a 'high income country', limiting its access to development aid. Its small-scale fisheries are said to be overcapitalized. That is, its fishing efforts have increased while catches have remained relatively stable. They mainly target demersal species through trapping and line fishing in near-shore waters.

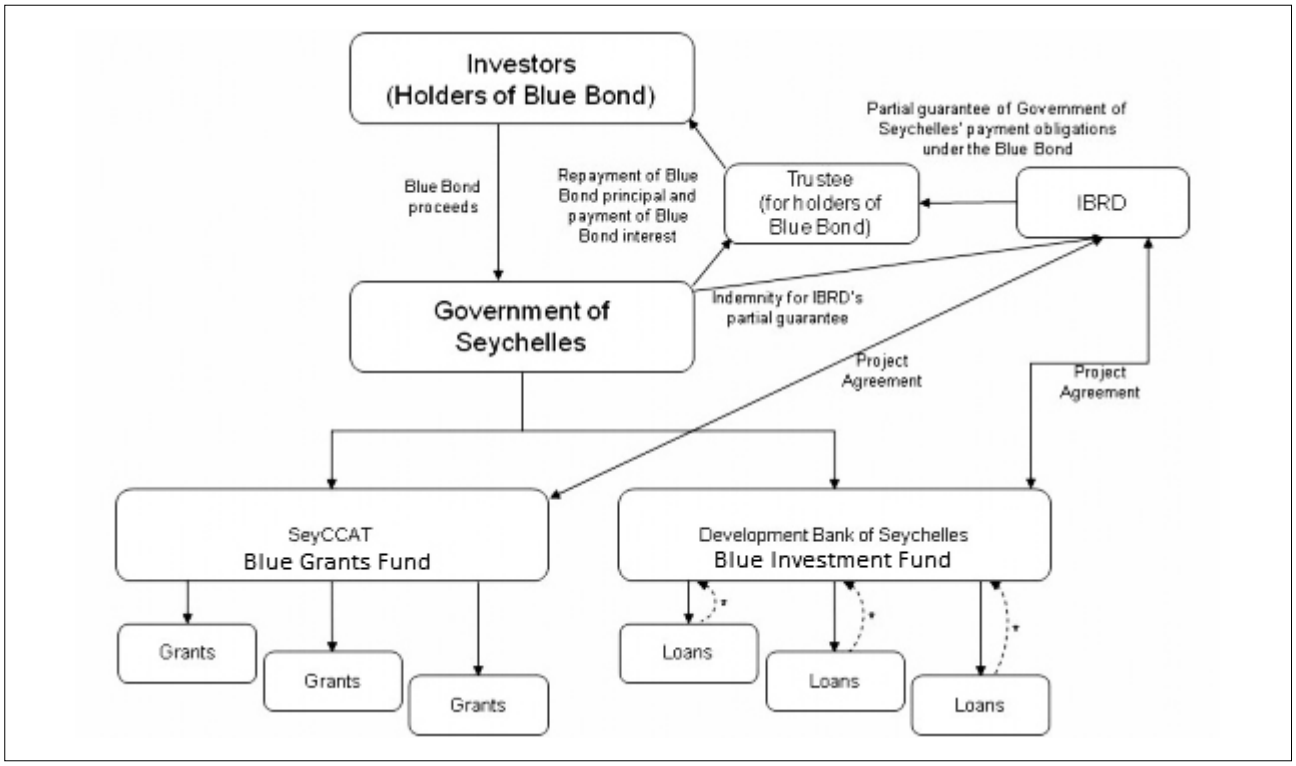
This led to another World Bank project called SWIOFish3 (Third South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Project). The aim of the project is to assist Seychelles in regulating its fishery and extending its value chains. It is a programme to improve governance and guide the State's fisheries policy. Since fish resources are central to Seychelles' economy, new fishing regulations are a part of conservation efforts and SWIOFish3 directs some blue bond capital towards achieving these ends.

What type of projects will the blue bond support?

Capital from the blue bond and the debt-for-nature swap will be distributed to projects that support marine conservation, sustainable development or ocean research. Therefore, US$3 mn raised from the blue bonds was combined with US$20.2 mn freed up from the debt swap and placed in a national trust fund called SeyCCAT (the Conservation and Climate Adaption Trust of Seychelles).

This trust fund channels money to the marine spatial planning initiative and gives grant funding to businesses and scientific research projects by application through the subsidiary 'Blue Grants Fund', while the remaining US$12 mn in bond capital is dispersed via the Seychelles Development Bank

Figure 1. Blue Bond Proceeds – Flow of Funds



Source: World Bank. (2017). *Project Appraisal Document* (PAD2156)

as easy loans to businesses through the bank's 'Blue Investment Fund'. To receive these loans, business projects should comply with the World Bank's environmental and social safeguards.

With SWIOFish3 aiming to extend fisheries value chains, projects will mainly target fish-processing activities. Research and business projects in sectors such as aquaculture, fish processing, product development, and biotechnology to produce fish oils and protein extracts, for example, are eligible for such loans.

Indeed, there are many business opportunities in fish processing to increase the use of fish by-products that may otherwise have been wasted. By extending fisheries value chains, while at the same time restricting fisheries, the World Bank hopes that more value can be extracted from fisheries without increasing fishing pressure. Considering this, the Seychelles blue bond and SeyCATT are crucial for stimulating innovation and economic growth, but also for funding the implementation of stricter fishing regulations.

To help include Seychelles' fishers in designing the new regulations, the blue bond also helps fund a marine spatial planning (MSP) initiative.

Why is the Seychelles' conservation initiative problematic?

Some Seychellois have reacted negatively to the new conservation initiative, particularly due to new fishing regulations and the government's ambitions to extract oil and gas from the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). To help include Seychelles' fishers in designing the new regulations, the blue bond also helps fund a marine spatial planning (MSP) initiative. The initiative is commendable for its iterative approach to planning and zoning Seychelles' EEZ with stakeholder inputs over a long period (2014 – 2020). However, early in the process, one environmentalist criticized the purpose, feasibility and the lack of transparency in deciding to implement the MSP process. Summaries from several years of stakeholder workshops conducted within the MSP process portray dialogue among stakeholders vaguely. Discussions are reduced to one-line summaries that mask the inherent politics negotiated at such events (see www.seymsp.com/outputs/documents/).

The MSP process has come in for criticism in other contexts, too. In the US, MSP was considered instrumental in defining how plans will operate, rather than informing the overarching goals of the project. In Europe, researchers described how the authorities' strong will to implement strategic economic development objectives over-ruled stakeholder priorities.

In Seychelles, fishers have voiced concerns in the media over stricter fishing regulations. As of this year, boat owners and fishers must purchase licences. In return, the government has pledged to build more infrastructure such as ice facilities and docking areas. Still, one article in Euromoney, a finance magazine, quoted a fisher as saying "things are only getting harder for us", referring to bycatch law changes and new rules that make it more difficult for them to access fuel subsidies.

"There are so many of these small things that all add up and impact our lives for the worse. Why would we believe that the final plans for the MSP will work in our favour?" asked the fisher. A recent BBC article also suggests that some fishers feel the new rules are inequitable, with one fisher saying: "I think having a protected area is good, but what has happened now is simply to me a publicity stunt. We have […] to make sacrifices - but sacrifices should not come only from the fishermen". Additionally, some environmentalists disagree with Seychelles' goal to establish an oil and gas industry within its EEZ.

Through the MSP process, The Nature Conservancy and Seychelles are incorporating input from the state-owned oil and gas company, PetroSeychelles. While oil and gas are currently in the exploratory phase

in Seychelles, it seems the country anticipates a commercially feasible oil strike. For example, a tax regime for oil extracting companies was enacted in 2008, and then reformed in 2013. The World Bank also donated funds to support Seychelles in implementing an initiative to ensure transparency in their oil and gas industry.

This contradicts Seychelles' reputedly 'green' image. However, since the country's economy is largely dependent on importing petroleum for energy, the Seychelles government believes that establishing its own oil and gas supply can reduce the effect of international price fluctuations, providing new jobs and economic growth. A map provided by PetroSeychelles shows that exploration blocks, currently leased by an Australian company known as Sub-Saharan Resources Ltd., lie about 25 km from the outer islands of the main archipelago. On the other hand, exploration wells lie much further afield, about 100 km west of the main islands.

According to Seychelles MSP documents, it is still unclear how oil and gas will be regulated in new 'sustainable use zones' and talks regarding a 'decision-matrix for vulnerable habitats and petroleum' are ongoing. Nevertheless, if The Nature Conservancy plans to replicate the 'blue bond for conservation' model, support for oil and gas extraction should not be a corollary in other countries.

A few independent academic articles have assessed Seychelles' conservation funding. A 2018 article analysed project documents from the Seychelles MSP and its funding system, warning against mirroring the Seychelles model in other places. It argues that the US$21.6 mn resulting from the debt swap to capitalize a trust fund does not reflect the value of the ecosystem services within Seychelles' EEZ. However, the funding was earmarked to help protect and sustainably use Seychelles' ecosystem services, not to valuate and commodify them. It also points to a lack of transparency in the blue bond, questioning how it will translate to increased biodiversity and ecosystem service protection. Yet, it does not analyse the SWIOFish3 project's role in reducing pressure on fisheries in Seychelles. Other reports have since clarified transparency issues to some degree.

What do we learn?

Seychelles' new conservation funding scheme is complex. Conservation there is intrinsically tied to economic development and profiting from ocean resources. This applies to most people living in Seychelles, but also to blue bond investors abroad. However, measuring the impact of projects funded by the blue bond on the environment is somewhat distorted by Seychelles' parallel effort to exploit oil and gas resources within their conservation area. Nevertheless, in a country dependent on importing energy across the sea, producing their own oil and gas might be a more environmentally friendly approach.

Even so, the Seychelles initiative has been dramatized as a victory for conservation due to the massive area now protected and because of its 'innovative' funding scheme. This is often portrayed with the imagery of iconic tropical marine habitats and fishers hauling in their catch. However, the lack of social scientific analysis on the effects of different facets of planning, participation and fishing regulations that have resulted from the debt swap and blue bond funding creates a research gap. It needs to be filled. If The Nature Conservancy plans to scale up this form of conservation financing, especially in countries that are less democratic and wealthy than Seychelles, they must ensure that those who lose out from conservation have an adequate safety net. Furthermore, The Nature Conservancy should work more actively to detach their conservation initiatives from non-renewable energy sources to avoid contradicting the aims of their projects.

For more

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Seychelles' Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework and Roadmap: Charting the Future (2018-2030)

On and By the Water

Without proper implementation of the SSF Guidelines, plans for the Blue Economy and Blue Growth will come to naught for small-scale fisheries

The European Union presents the Blue Economy and Blue Growth as follows: "Europe can unlock the untapped potential for growth in its blue economy while safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment. Traditional sectors such as maritime transport and maritime and coastal tourism will gain in competitiveness. Growing emerging sectors, such as ocean renewable energy and blue biotechnology, can become a key to creating more jobs, clean energy, and more products and services."

There is no mention of small-scale fisheries here, not even fisheries. Small-scale fisheries are, after all, the most 'traditional' of all sectors in the Blue Economy. Why this omission? Is it because small-scale fisheries have no growth potential? Is it just forgetfulness, or another example of their marginalization?

...whether growth in the Blue Economy will be a win-win, depends on what is included in the concept...

As a concept, the Blue Economy evolved from the Green Economy and the Rio+20 conference, originally launched by the association of small-island developing States. It is now all over the world. One can get the impression that it is not about a problem searching for a solution, but the opposite—a solution seeking a problem! As if the problem is known entirely and its solution is the same everywhere, regardless of geography. However, whether growth in the Blue Economy will be a win-win, depends on what is included in the concept, on how it is fitted to local contexts. If small-scale fishing people are excluded, they are at risk of losing their livelihood. If they are not at the table, they are on the menu.

Marine Spatial Planning

In the Blue Economy, the number and diversity of stakeholders in coastal areas are likely to increase. With space becoming scarce, conditions will be ripe for conflict, which will hamper growth. Which investor will risk an area that looks like a war zone? The remedy for this scenario is Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) involving all stakeholders.

Since MSP is conducive to Blue Growth, it would be of interest to know how small-scale fisheries are treated. The geographer Brice Trouillet examined the content of 43 current MSPs in different countries around the world in 2019. He found that capture fisheries do not show up, neither in the maps nor in the plans. For small-scale fisheries in the Blue Economy scenario, this does not bode well.

A map is not a neutral instrument. Once MSP starts mapping the sea and allocates space to various stakeholder groups accordingly, it is bound to have distributional consequences. This is especially problematic for fishers' mobility, in contrast to aquaculture pens, windmill farms and oil rigs, which stay put. With mapping and spatial distribution, fishers run the risk of being both fenced in and out. If MSP means that they are no longer free to chase the fish where they can find it, they have reason to be skeptical.

Whose stakes?

What share of space is fair? It lies in the eyes of the beholder. There is often no agreement on whose stakes are more

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SEBASTIAN MATHEW / ICSF

Fishermen preparing for a fishing trip in Karinkulam fishing village,Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Small-scale fisheries are, after all, the most 'traditional' of all sectors in the Blue Economy

legitimate and urgent, which ones should carry more weight. This is not mathematics but a political issue. Those with most at stake are not necessarily those in power, as is the case with small-scale fishers. If measures are not taken to prevent it, small-scale fishers are easily pushed aside.

Ralph Tafon studied MSP in the Baltic. He had this to say about it in 2019: "MSP entails a move from the possibilities of chaos and 'resource rush' to social order, which facilitates predictability and guarantees normatively laudable individual and collective agency. However, the space for concerted action is never immunized from politics, as powerful actors may misuse opportunities for collective action to pursue individual rather than collective goals."

At the third Small-Scale Fisheries World Congress in Chiang Mai, organized by the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) initiative in October 2018 (see www.toobigtoignore.net), Moenieba Isaacs introduced the concept of Blue Justice. To achieve justice in the Blue Economy, MSP would need to account for the weight of the various stakes, and the rights that apply in particular situations. Yet this is not what typically happens. Marine policy analyst W Flannery and his colleagues point out: "Marine Spatial Planning offers the possibility of democratizing management of the seas. MSP is, however, increasingly implemented as a form of post-political planning, dominated by the logic of neoliberalism, and a belief in the capacity of managerial-technological apparatuses to address complex socio-political problems, with little attention paid to issues of power and inequality. There is growing concern that MSP is not facilitating a paradigm shift towards publicly engaged marine management, and that it may simply repackage power dynamics in the rhetoric of participation to legitimize the agendas of dominant actors."

There is growing concern that MSP is not facilitating a paradigm shift towards publicly engaged marine management...

Should MSP bring democracy and order while securing the legitimate, urgent, and rightful stakes of small-scale fishers, they should welcome it. If, on the other hand, MSP fails to deliver, small-scale fishing people should mobilize. To shield themselves from the so-called 'ocean grabbing' they must be empowered at their own initiative.

SSF Guidelines

In the Blue Economy, small-scale fishing people must have agency. They must have sufficient organizational, legal and cognitive power to secure their own interests. This is also stated in the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). TBTI published a major study about the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, which includes over 30 case studies from around the world. The study shows that some countries have taken on the Guidelines, while others are sitting on the fence.

Coming from an underdog position, a level-playing field may still not be sufficient to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries in the Blue Economy. Therefore, the SSF Guidelines talk about 'preferential treatment' of small-scale fisheries and the importance of protecting, respecting, and advancing their human rights. The Guidelines also have something to say about MSP in article 10.2: "States should, as appropriate, develop and use spatial planning approaches, including inland and marine spatial planning, which take due account of the small-scale fisheries interests and role in integrated coastal zone management. Through consultation, participation and publicizing, gender-sensitive policies and laws on regulated spatial planning should be developed as appropriate. Where appropriate, formal planning systems should consider methods of planning and territorial development used by small-scale fishing and other communities with customary tenure systems, and decision-making processes within those communities."

By endorsing the SSF Guidelines, FAO member states committed themselves to protecting and advancing the interests of small-scale fisheries in MSP. Securing existing tenure rights would then be essential.

Life above water

Small-scale fisheries also figure in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in SDG 14: Life below Water. Given their history of marginalization, one should appreciate their mentioning in such a prominent context. Without sustainable management of below-water resources, Blue Growth will be a disaster for small-scale fishing people. Yet, what is happening in small-scale fisheries are not just taking place below but above water – on and by the water. Therefore, we cannot avoid asking whether the Blue Growth agenda will also work for small-scale fisheries. If States do nothing to implement the SSF Guidelines, the Blue Economy will come at a loss for small-scale fisheries.

For more

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Come Together

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https://www.springer.com/in/book/9783319550732
The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation

Action Stations

Sri Lanka's National Fisheries Policy needs to be remodelled to incorporate the SSF Guidelines in order to attain the goal of securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD) of Sri Lanka recently prepared a White Paper on National Fisheries Policy in 2018, which was approved by the Cabinet and is expected to be presented to the parliament. It fails to address a number of compelling needs of the small-scale fisheries sector. The Sri Lanka Forum for Small-Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF) responded to this need; it embarked on a process to implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) between July 2018 and May 2019, with assistance from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), as part of efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) towards global implementation of the SSF Guidelines. Following the FAO Project Results Matrix, the SLFSSF took up a number of activities.

Plan of activities and methodology

The plan of activities included: sensitizing the state actors from diverse institutions in the coastal zone on the SSF Guidelines; development of communication tools for community stakeholders, as part of which the SSF Guidelines were translated and posters and factsheets prepared; stakeholder consultation workshops covering several parts of the country; assessment of the current fisheries policy; and re-modelling the policy by incorporating the relevant sections of the SSF Guidelines. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools were used to extract information at stakeholder consultations and the results were analysed using non-parametric statistical tools.

The outcome: Missing links and new SSF policy

Stakeholder consultation workshops discussed diverse issues. The results of these discussions were analysed and their policy implications based on the relevant SSF Guidelines were noted. After re-visiting the current National Fisheries Policy by a group of policy experts and identifying the missing links, a new SSF policy paper was finally prepared.

Tenure rights

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) at stakeholder consultation workshops revealed a number of incidences where the rights of fishers were violated, such as the acquisition of beach areas for tourism, leading to loss of anchorage sites, beach-seining sites, space available for craft and gear repair and fish processing. It also came up that large-scale mechanized craft and gear have taken away resources which were traditionally available to the small-scale and artisanal fishers. There were also concerns about rights that fishers want to possess and enjoy, including access to and use of mangrove forests and land adjoining beaches. In addressing these issues, the need for zonation of the coastal area was suggested.

There were also concerns about rights that fishers want to possess and enjoy, including access to and use of mangrove forest and land adjoining beaches.

Sustainable resource management

The absence of a proper monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

*This article is by **Oscar Amarasinghe** (oamarasinghe@yahoo.com), President of the Sri Lanka Forum for Small-Scale Fisheries (SLFSSF), Sri Lanka*

mechanism to monitor coastal resource management was highlighted. The need to decentralize management decisions to the district level with the involvement of local government actors was also underlined. Attention was also focused on treating the coastal zone as one ecosystem and to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are involved in the process of management and decision making at all levels, including youth, women, the differently abled and other marginalized groups. It was agreed that management approaches will have to be holistic, integrated, inclusive, and participatory.

Value chains, post-harvest handling and trade

Post-harvest losses reaching a high level of 40 per cent was noted. One important missing link was the absence of provisions for spatial planning to allow for allocation of space for various fisheries-related activities on the coast; craft anchorage, equipment storage and fish drying, and shore facilities to engage in such activities. The need to introduce scientific fish handling was also emphasized. The importance of government intervention and promotion of the entry of community organizations into fish marketing to break middlemen oligopsonies was highlighted. It was suggested to regulate foreign trade to ensure that the nutrition and food security of the people is not threatened by international trade in fish and fish products.

Occupational health and safety

The lack of concern for safety at sea among fishers was noted. It was agreed that there is a need to build awareness among fishers on the importance of adopting sea-safety measures. Providing fishers with economic access to safety equipment was suggested as an important policy strategy. Apart from on-board safety equipment, concerns were expressed on the need to make landing sites and equipment safe for navigation. Ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on safety and work in the fishing sector was also proposed.

Social protection and fisheries insurance

Participants expressed displeasure at the functioning of the Fishermen's Pension Scheme. Fisheries insurance, too, has always been a failure due to information asymmetries between insurers and insurees, leading to non-payment or delays in paying indemnities. It was proposed that a fisheries insurance scheme be operated through the fisher community to reduce these asymmetries. Another related problem was ill-health and injuries caused by bad weather and climate-related hazards. Hence the need to promote fisheries insurance schemes that cover both fishing and climate-related risks was underlined.

Disaster risk and climate change

Despite the fact that Sri Lanka possesses a fairly good weather information system, the participants thought that an 'early-warning' mechanism is still lacking. The possibility of using mobile phones to communicate weather data to fishers was also discussed. In improving ex-ante management of disasters, it was proposed to maintain a registry of fishers, craft and fishing equipment with regular update of information. Moreover, involvement of community organizations and the need for cross-sectoral collaboration and institutional co-ordination to deal with disasters and climate change impacts in the coastal zone were also emphasized.

Gender equality

Discussions revealed that in predominantly Buddhist coastal communities, a woman's employment was still considered a reflection of the man's inability to feed the family. It was proposed that awareness be raised in these communities to show the importance of women's employment in improving family well-being. Moreover, employment is a right of women. The important role played by women in fisheries cooperative societies was also noted and a minimum of 25 per cent representation of women in the committees of cooperatives was recommended. It was a proposed that the government should take steps to remove gender-based discrepancies in wage rates.

Social development

It was agreed that no measures taken towards sustainable resource management would succeed if measures towards social development were not adopted at the same time. Several measures were proposed to guarantee people's access to basic social services: Affordable access to basic education, health, housing and household amenities; according priority to children of fisher communities to fisheries higher education; provision of financial assistance for children of fisher families to continue education during the off-season; development of credit and micro-credit schemes to encourage investment in fisheries; and to enable the poor and vulnerable to access credit.

Capacity development

It was proposed to make fishing communities aware of new fishing techniques and be trained in them, especially in deep-sea fishing technology, post-harvest processing and alternative income-generation activities. While there is so much interest today in sustainable use of resources, conservation and management, it was disclosed that fishing communities are hardly made aware of the diverse measures needed to be adopted to achieve the goals of sustainability. Thus, it was proposed to build capacities of members of fishing communities in new fishing techniques, deep-sea fishing technology, post-harvest processing, alternative livelihoods, resource conservation and co-management. The need to provide training to women and school dropouts in post-harvest processing and other ancillary activities was also recognized.

Empowering community organizations

As a means of building capacities of fishing communities in undertaking management functions, it was proposed to provide training facilities to officials of fisheries co-operatives in resource conservation and management, financial management and principles of cooperation. Statements concerning the dissemination of policy documents, laws, rules and regulations in a manner fisheries communities understand easily, and the need to consult fisheries co-operatives in the design, planning and implementation of fisheries and other development projects were also proposed to be incorporated into the National Fisheries Policy.

The way forward

The process of the SSF Guidelines implementation led to the formulation of a SSF policy paper, which included a number of policy strategies that were absent in the National Fisheries Policy, 2018. All consultations and policy workshops were carried out with the participation of State actors, academics, researchers, civil society and community organizations. The Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries attended the final policy workshop as the keynote speaker.

It is now necessary to get the government approval for the revised policy document, incorporating the new policy paper. As it became evident from country-wide consultations, the full benefits of the policy process can only be reaped if

(i) the management process is made participatory, inclusive, integrated and holistic;

(ii) co-management platforms are established at the local level, rising up to the national level;

(iii) capacities of State actors and communities are built to participate effectively in management decision making;

(iv) community organizations are empowered and their active involvement in development and management decision making is ensured; and

(v) actions are taken to invest in social development, including gender equity, working conditions, social protection and insurance. These actions will ensure that the revised fisheries policy meets the goal of securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

For more

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https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1088-Sri%20Lanka.html
Implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication in Sri Lanka, SLFSSF and ICSF

An Unsolved Case

In the wake of the biggest-ever oil spill disaster recorded in Brazil, the aim now must be to pinpoint responsibility and work towards State-sponsored disaster management

Oil spill disasters in the ocean often devastate marine and coastal ecosystems, profoundly affecting fisheries resources and fishing communities. Urgent and early-warning actions are needed to avoid a tragedy in biomes and communities when such accidents occur.

In late July 2019, Brazilian fishers observed the first oil slick reaching the coast of Paraíba, weeks prior to the recognition of the biggest oil spill disaster recorded in Brazil, extending across the entire northeastern coast of the country. Their early signs were not properly heeded. It escalated into a gigantic spread of petroleum slicks. Almost 1,000 localities were affected, including beaches, mangroves, rivers and 'protected' areas. All the nine states of the region, encompassing a 2,300-km long shoreline, faced an emergency.

Official laboratory reports on fish contamination tests were not shared widely...

Those responsible for the oil spill remain unknown. The Brazilian federal police suspects a ship-to-ship transfer involving a Greek flagged tanker in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The investigations have been fruitless and the case remains unsolved. Only the scale of the damage is emerging slowly.

Thousands of fishers from at least 130 municipalities were presented a peculiar gift: oil sludge on their shores. A bigger tragedy could have been precipitated but for the honourable actions of coastal communities, who cleaned up the beaches and corals. It was an example of collective action. Social movements, fisher's associations—in some cases along with civil society and local organizations—worked tirelessly and impressively along hundreds of beaches and mangroves. Their accomplishment was tremendous.

Their heroism, though, could not surmount the harm from direct exposure to crude petroleum's chemistry. Several hands-on activities were without the right protection and the contamination risk was not adequately prevented, especially in peripheral or remote communities. The human effects of removing 4,000 to 5,000 tonnes of oil sludge from the beaches are still not known.

Besides the cleaning action, fisheries were not officially closed. Women with children were found gathering crabs and shells to sell in the market, exposing themselves to toxins, with the usual lack of diagnosis and health monitoring. Official laboratory reports on fish contamination tests were not shared widely, so both fishers and consumers felt—still feel—insecure about the safety of seafood. The fishers' misery was compounded by an unofficial buyers' moratorium that effectively lasted six months. Fishing communities were not prevented from fishing but they could not sell their catch. This further aggravated their privation, especially among marginalized communities.

Vulnerable communities

In the face of such a socio-environmental disaster, the Government of Brazil took too much time to act. It took the authorities 40 days after the arrival of the sludge on shore to collect the first samples for environmental analysis; that, too, after strong social pressure. In addition, the first support to the most vulnerable fishing communities was announced only in December 2019 after pressure from social movements and the

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FISHERS' PASTORAL COUNCIL / BRAZIL

Fishers from Sirinhaem, Garapua and Cova da Onça fishing communities remove oil from the beaches in order to protect their fishing and living places in the Brazilian states of Pernambuco and Bahia

academia. The support consisted of an assistance of about US$200 per fisher for those living in the municipalities directly hit by the oil spill, numbering about 60,000 fishers. The assistance was restricted to those fishers coming under the General Fisheries Registration (RGP) system, holding the Fisher's Card indicating that they work at sea.

The support was well received yet there were serious problems. The number of people needing assistance was grossly underestimated. The last official registration on the RGP System was in 2012—2009 in some regions—so the enumeration was outdated. Several fishers recognized in the system had not received identification cards when they were last distributed, in 2013, due to official errors.

The oil slicks also hit several inland fishing communities, as also their resources and production. They were not considered for compensation. In addition to about 100,000 fishing households getting left out of the government support, the entire fishing economy of the region was disrupted and paralysed as a result of the spill, including those municipalities not affected directly.

The socio-economic breakdown and in-practice exclusion of several families from the public emergency support has resulted in several lawsuits. These seek the inclusion of all members of fishing communities from the entire region in the monetary and legal support mechanism. Leading this legal struggle are the Federal Public Defender's Office and Ministry as well as social movements like the Conselho Pastoral dos Pescadores (CPP).

The fishing economy in several localities remains stagnant or functioning below average historical income levels. Numerous traditional fishing communities are still reeling. A large number of people remain economically paralysed, lacking safe ways to sell their produce.

The uncertainty in the value chain, the toxicity levels of fish and fish products, the number of fishers affected and the lack of an effective oil disaster protocol give an idea of what was required. Rather than emphasizing the heroic role of fishers, we need to ensure that the state machinery is responsive during such disasters.

For more

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Nearly three months after Brazil oil spill, origins remain uncertain

A Towering Intellect

With the death of Sidney Holt late last year, the world lost a man blessed with a towering intellect, boundless curiosity and an unwavering commitment to conservation

Sidney began his professional life in 1947 at the Fisheries Laboratory in Lowestoft, UK. Michael Graham was the lab's director then and he set Sidney on the path that led, a decade later, to the publication of what is often called the Bible of fisheries science and which he co-authored with Ray Beverton. Titled *On the Dynamics of Exploited Fish Populations,* that seminal work, frequently described as the most-cited reference in fisheries science, continues to underpin fisheries management to this day. Not bad for a first effort!

The world of fisheries management was very small in the 1940s. Sidney soon found himself involved at all levels, from frequent research cruises at sea—Graham insisted on them for all scientists and Sidney considered them an excellent grounding in reality—to giving training courses and participating in negotiations for the future Law of the Sea. He fell in love—with Rome because he was already married!—and joined Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the first of his many appointments and positions in the UN system.

The extraordinary political attention on whaling in the 1980s led to both an indefinite moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986 and the development of an entirely new method for managing commercial whaling.

His fisheries expertise moved the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to engage him in 1961, along with K R Allen and D G Chapman, as the Committee of Three (later Four, with J Gulland). This was the Commission's first attempt to set rational catch limits that would simultaneously allow the depleted whale stocks to recover. Quotas were subsequently reduced, but too slowly to prevent further depletions. The extraordinary political attention on whaling in the 1980s led to both an indefinite moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986 and the development of an entirely new method for managing commercial whaling. As Sidney has noted, the moratorium allowed the IWC Scientific Committee to divert its attention from 'routine' stock assessments to exploring radical new approaches to the management of exploitation. These approaches involved the testing, by computer simulation, of various proposals for setting catch limits to whaling, based on initial work done by W K de la Mare. After many years of work, the result was the IWC's so-called Revised Management Procedure, adopted in 1994, though it has never been used to establish catch limits by the IWC. Sidney was instrumental in both of these processes.

Indeed, Sidney's membership in the Committee of Three was the beginning of his life-long engagement in the movement to end the commercial slaughter of whales, work that was largely successful by the time of his death.

Ever thinking ahead, Sidney became interested in the issue of interactions between fisheries and marine mammals. As the hunting of seals and whales became politically problematic in many quarters, suggestions were made that they were consuming so many valuable fish that they should be reduced in numbers, in order to benefit fisheries. In the 1990s, under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Sidney led a coalition of inter-governmental and

This remembrance is by ***Michael Earle*** *(rimskikorsakof@gmail.com), Magoster, Belgium*

TIM

Michael Earle in conversation with Sidney Holt. A colleague of Sidney recently wrote: "I decided from knowing Sidney that any day that one does not laugh is a day wasted." A fine epitaph to an extraordinary scientist and human being

non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their development of a scientific protocol to evaluate whether a proposal for the culling of marine mammals to increase fishery yields would achieve its objectives.

In 1993 and then again in 2004, the fisheries Bible, which had been out of print for decades (the initial print run was only 1,500), was re-issued. In 2004 the Foreword by Sidney ruminated on the progress—or lack thereof—in fisheries management in the previous half-century. In it, he recounts that he and Beverton had long discussed whether the general failure of fisheries management was attributable to scientists offering bad advice, or governments not accepting the advice that was offered. Shortly before his co-author died, they agreed that it was probably a bit of both. It was partly due to this retrospective that Sidney subsequently returned to the problems in fisheries management, bringing in lessons he had learned elsewhere.

Though I had worked with Sidney, among others, on the UNEP protocol, and was well aware of his reputation, it was after he became once again involved in fisheries management in the late 2000s, leading up to the reform of the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), that I began to really understand the depth and breadth of his contributions and commitment.

His aim became to demonstrate the folly of using Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) as the objective of fisheries management. Beverton and he had never intended this. The enshrinement of MSY as an objective in international law, via UNCLOS and various regional management organizations, was a result of political pressure exerted by the US in the post-World War II years, as recounted in a fascinating history by C Finley. Sidney spent much of the past 15 years trying to correct what he considered to be a calamity.

Economically profitable

Despite the widespread assumption that fishing so as to achieve MSY would be economically profitable, Sidney insisted that this was far from necessarily the case. In his work for the European Parliament during the reform of the CFP, he showed that reducing

the intensity of fishing by a significant amount—by as much as half—would reduce yields by insignificant amounts, on the order of 5-10 per cent. The result would be not only more sustainable fishing on more abundant and resilient stocks, but also much improved profitability. As Sidney was wont to say, what rational business would double its costs to improve profits by 10 per cent? Nonetheless, political compromises continue to keep fishing intensity too high, in the EU and elsewhere.

While doing this work, he returned to his earliest themes. He often quoted his mentor, Michael Graham, in Graham's 'Great Law of Fishing': "Fisheries that are unlimited become inefficient and unprofitable." Sidney was as concerned about the well-being of fishers as the sustainability of fish and other marine species. In his view, they were mutually reinforcing under proper management. His experience in the practical aspects of fisheries management led him to add his own 'Second Law of Fishing': "Operators will always react to regulation in such a way as to negate the intended effects."

But Sidney was more than the sum of his accomplishments, impressive though they are. He was very generous of his time, erudition and ideas, as many can attest, at least if he sympathized with what you were trying to do. If you found yourself on the other side of a professional argument, though, it was a different matter. In defence of his ideas he was ruthless and relentless. Stories are legion of his debates in meetings and correspondence with his scientific and political opponents.

I had the privilege of witnessing one such meeting in the late 1980s, in which Sidney and D M Lavigne, a Canadian seal biologist, discussed a proposed cull of grey seals with a scientist from the Canadian government. The government man was trying to justify a cull to enhance recovery of the recently collapsed northern cod stock or, probably more honestly, to divert blame for his colleagues' disastrous management of the fishery. He was annihilated by Sidney and Dave, to the point that when they made their final decisive point, he simply left the room! Moments later, the meeting was abruptly adjourned and, within days, the government announced that there would be no cull.

I recalled that scene visiting him much later, watching his delighted fussing over his cats, and marvelled at the contrast with his professional prowess and reputation for unrelenting and ruthless combat in scientific forums.

Sidney also had a keen appreciation of the importance of history, besides an unparalleled knowledge of the development of his own discipline, including the role of politics in its history. This led to a lengthy, mutually beneficial collaboration with a group of fisheries historians. Sidney contributed first-hand experience to the more academic knowledge of the historians. His historical tales always reminded me of an old paper titled 'Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution'. That is undeniably true for fisheries management!

After his retirement from the UN system in 1980, Sidney moved to Umbria, Italy, latterly to the small village of Paciano, where he had enough grapevines and olive trees to keep him and his son Tim supplied with wine and oil year round. They were especially delighted when they—"a couple of Brits", as Sidney would note—won the local contest for the best oil of the year. He was always ready to engage in work to further conservation, and worked with numerous national and international NGOs, among others.

For more

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Sidney Holt (1926–2019)

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On the Dynamics of Exploited Fish Populations

Chewing the Policy Cud

Reflections on the ICSF workshop and recommendations to India's draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP), September 2019

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) organized a national workshop to discuss the draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP), being finalized by India's Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The main objectives of the workshop, held in Kolkata on September 6-7, 2019, were to review existing social and ecological knowledge-gaps, to develop long-term and short-term recommendations—action points—for implementation, to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) with NIFAP, and to build capacity and awareness of fishers and fishworkers about the draft policy and its realization.

The workshop intended to generate discussion on the factors that could influence processes and outcomes of existing and proposed inland fisheries governance systems. It embraced a human-rights-based approach (in accordance with the SSF Guidelines) to address the needs of vulnerable and marginalized fishing groups. The workshop was an important step towards expanding the relevance and scope of NIFAP by connecting it with on-ground experiences of the participants. It brought together fishworkers—men and women—fisheries scientists, academics, policymakers, activists, community workers, and non-governmental organisation (NGO) representatives.

Five months on, the recommendations that evolved from the workshop can be broadly classified, analysed and mapped. By understanding the core positions from which discussions took place and reflecting on the conflicts and complementarities that emerged, it is possible to detail their positive outcomes—and some difficult questions they have left behind.

The NIFAP vision

NIFAP provides the Indian states and union territories with guidelines to implement fisheries management. It helps identify and prioritize sustainable management and governance of inland fisheries and aquaculture. Its vision is: "ecologically healthy, economically viable and socially inclusive inland fisheries and aquaculture that generates gainful employment and economic prosperity." Other objectives pertain to increasing fish production and fishers' living standards, to create gainful employment and marketing opportunities, and to ensure food security while conserving native fish genetic stocks and associated ecosystem services from fisheries, in a complementary manner. NIFAP advocates an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and recognizes significant scope for utilizing the potential of inland waters for commercially viable fish production. It also incorporates a wide range of issues, including development of post-harvest and trade, gender equity, governance, stakeholder participation, public-private and community partnerships and market support, among other things.

NIFAP advocates an ecosystem approach to fisheries management and recognizes significant scope for utilizing the potential of inland waters for commercially viable fish production.

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The chair of the NIFAP drafting committee addressed the workshop participants and said that the time had come to move from mass production to "production for the masses". Given this intent and vision, we must bear in mind the various challenges to implementing the NIFAP. Fisheries researchers and forums have emphasized that the policy's implementation across states needs more discussion. This pertains especially to addressing issues of rights that are essential to realizing the benefits of fisheries, as also to acknowledge and engage with conflicts over fishing rights and access that complicate effective governance of inland fisheries.

Inland fisheries are complex, diverse and dynamic socio-ecological systems. Varied outcomes are expected when the NIFAP is superimposed upon and adapted to locally changing and socially contingent realities. These stem from the varied characteristics of ecosystems and social contexts—including cultural practices, community norms, power relations, and history—in which inland fisheries relate with broader social objectives. The diversity of existing policies, legislation, and institutional arrangements at the national and subnational levels highlights the need to find consensus principles for implementation, which can be brought about by combining NIFAP vision with the SSF Guidelines.

An encouraging sign in the recommendations from these themes was that ecological, environmental, social and policy research figured as critical to address the existing gaps.

Classifying the recommendations

Overall, 50 recommendations emerged from the workshop. They were organized as per the themes of awareness and outreach, data gaps and review needs, pollution and health issues, gender issues, and interventions in legislation and policy issues. Almost 50 per cent of the recommendations were related to legislation and policy-related interventions. Discussions on rights and entitlements, responsibilities, co-operative management, environmental protection, restoration, and sustainable use of fisheries resources, livelihood security, and gender issues dominated the suggested final recommendations.

The themes on data gaps, awareness and outreach, pollution and health, and gender issues were strongly linked. An encouraging sign in the recommendations from these themes was that ecological, environmental, social and policy research figured as critical to address the existing gaps. The degraded or deteriorating ecological condition of India's rivers and floodplain wetlands was repeatedly flagged by several participants. Their emphasis included the recognition of ecological flows, not just minimum flows, for conservation of fish resources as well as biodiversity; fisheries studies to understand fish responses to hydro-climatic changes; impacts of dams and barrages on river flows; fishing practices that are illegal and regarded as destructive; generation of basic knowledge on fish ecology and biology; and biological assessments of water pollution status.

The degree of water pollution and impacts of hydrological modification on riverine-wetland fisheries had to be assessed at large landscape or region scales. The formalin problem in fish from Andhra Pradesh, which was experienced across eastern India in May-June 2019, was a strong reference point in discussions during the workshop. A complete ban on dangerous additives, improved sanitation at fish markets and accessibility to soil and water labs were some crucial recommendations for these issues.

Sanitation and health issues were also directly connected with sustaining the involvement of women in fishing and fisheries' work. Poor literacy, lack of a secure working environment, limited social bonds and networks, and their decreasing participation were strong hindrances for women in fishing communities.

Social science research was proposed on a range of subjects, including demographic and socioeconomic data, legislation, fishing practices and

cultural beliefs, seasonal fishing activity especially in poorly-known irrigation ponds and canal systems, and migration of fishers. Participants highlighted the need for focused attention on fishery conflicts with business interests, especially tourism, industry and aquaculture. Key recommendations included the need to promote gender-sensitive and gender-disaggregated research and data on women's involvement in inland fisheries.

The call for rights

The primary drivers of legal and policy recommendations were the perceived gaps related to recognition of rights, awareness about rights, allocations of rights through equitable and just ways, the minimal right to water, collective and individual rights, community rights, and so on. NIFAP states the minimal right to water but the call for recognizing fishers as the primary non-consumptive users of river water is equally important. It was driven home by activists that the National Water Policy of 2012, which guides the grant of rights to water use, does not even mention 'fishers' or fisheries as important stakeholders. The Policy thus needs revision to include fishers' inalienable rights to water. Recommendations towards the recognition, definition and formal or legal codification of rights came mostly from fishworkers and their institutional representatives across several states.

The call for rights involved the recognition of a large bundle of rights. A key aspect of the recognition of rights was their diverse origins. Rights demands were pervasive across categories, and hence most important to engage with. The recommendations involved demands to replicate community-based fishing rights akin to community forest rights to be granted as per the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The need to secure the rights of fishers by modifying national and state management priorities and institutional structures was also expressed. Institutional processes towards maintaining rights also needed to involve rural self-governments (panchayats, tribal councils, societies) and co-operative functionaries. Examples of successful governance could be shared for their application in other contexts.

Overall, some important recommendations emerged. It was discussed that fishing rights could be granted on a hierarchy of needs: from locality-based rights (proximity to water body) to traditional identity, and to preferences and priorities of fishing communities. Women also needed to be recognized as fishers 'in their own right' and not through their status as dependents of fishermen. In river channels, community rights over access and use were thought necessary to prevent conflicts over open access, which remains the dominant mode of access for riverine fishers. Similarly, leasing periods should be increased up to 10 years in water bodies fished through leasing arrangements. Shorter leases might lead to overharvesting. For large reservoirs, while lease systems were needed, stocking rights and responsibilities could be granted to communities. This could bring a sense of stake and ownership to the fishers involved in leasing regimes. Special arrangements are also needed to secure rights pertaining to dynamic shifts in the spatial extent and characteristics of the fishing areas; this bears upon tenurial uncertainty in river channels and estuaries due to flooding, meander cut-offs, frequent and rapid erosion-deposition processes. Inland water bodies in India are almost always multi-use systems. Hence the issue of equitable management comes to the fore, when fishery rights compete with other rights to the same water. It was discussed that the 'first right' to use water to fish must be granted to fishing communities. The compatibility of such rights with other uses needed to be ensured.

Special arrangements are also needed to secure rights pertaining to dynamic shifts in the spatial extent and characteristics of the fishing areas...

The rider of responsibilities

It was stated throughout the workshop that the enjoyment of fishing rights

came with responsibilities of fishers towards protecting human rights, social harmony, economic opportunity and equity, and environmental conservation. The demand for fishing rights and tenure thus needed to include voluntary expression by fishing communities of responsibilities towards environment and biodiversity conservation, prevention of crime, and prevention of human exploitation in the form of child labour and forced labour. Fishing involved risks both to and from biodiversity. In inland waters, where fishers interacted closely with threatened species, therefore, there was a need to identify ways in which any mutual negative impacts could be minimized. To do so, conservation laws for biodiversity could not be side-lined, while securing fishing rights. The risk of bycatch of threatened species in fishing gear, the introduction of exotic and potentially invasive species in inland waters, disease spread and the contribution of fishers to plastic waste pollution were some of the issues discussed.

In light of the already noticeable impacts of climate change, 'climate-smart' fisheries and aquaculture needed identification, especially in the aquaculture sector. Fishers agreed that fishing rights came with responsibilities. However, when rights had not been granted, responsibilities are being imposed without the rights getting granted. Responsible tenure and rights are essential to the effective and sustainable governance of inland fisheries, but existing laws and regulatory regimes do not allow for both. In this regard, it was proposed that a review of fishing policies be undertaken in relation to legislation on biodiversity and environment, and other social issues. This would mean amendments to existing regional and national laws concerning fisheries and environment laws, such as the Forest Rights (Traditional and other Forest-Dwellers) Act, 2006 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

A significant part of the discussions focused on safeguarding and improving the conditions of fishers.

The appeal for improvement

A significant part of the discussions focused on safeguarding and improving the condition of fishers. Numerous gaps remaine unaddressed: disaster relief and insurance schemes for fisherfolk who are the most vulnerable to disasters such as cyclones and flooding; protection from harassment related to corruption and crime and its tussle with law enforcement (for example, the suspicious activities associated with sand mining); measures for full social security and safety of fishworkers during work; reviving and restoring wetlands for urban and rural poor who could avail of their fishing benefits; and mechanisms for grievance redress.

Many recommendations also involved structural changes in the working of fisheries departments and their governance systems. The need for independent fishery departments in all states was strongly felt, because currently, fisheries are often managed together with agriculture and animal husbandry. Independent fisheries departments could be more active in directly addressing the needs and grievances of fishers, especially with regard to constitutional violations of human rights and fishing rights.

Improvements in the staffing and technical capacity of fisheries departments were recommended, as also increase in extension and training for fisheries development. Reviews of fishery legislation and co-operatives across states were wanting, and a priority for upcoming planning of inland fisheries and aquaculture development was welcomed. Value addition of fish produce was a major area of intervention called for. In fish supply-chains, reducing the length and role of market intermediaries could help add value and secure consistent prices for fish. In the case of water bodies on which major fisheries depend, inter-sectoral and inter-departmental co-ordination at the state-level, between states, and between the state and national levels was identified to be of utmost importance.

ICSF

Group photo of Kolkata workshop on India's National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP), September 6-7, 2019. It is hoped that the collective learning at the workshop will remain cognizant of generally unacknowledged realities

Co-operatives in special focus

A major strand of discussions throughout the workshop was the performance of co-operative institutions in inland fisheries. It was vehemently emphasized by the director of the National Federation of Fishers Co-operatives Ltd. (FISHCOPFED) that co-operatives were the most widespread institutions in India. They were thus best placed to grant community rights in inland fisheries. However, their failure in doing so, over the past decades of their existence deserved critical attention. The ineffectiveness of co-operatives emerged repeatedly and throughout, as also the need to overhaul or revisit many basic assumptions about them. The recommendation to have state-level reviews of co-operative institutions to identify the factors responsible for their current functioning and their relevance to fishing rights and tenure was made in this respect. It was suggested that model studies on selected co-operative institutions that were both regarded as 'successes' and 'failures' be undertaken. Women's co-operatives, on lines similar to those in Bangladesh, also needed to be created.

Fundamental questions

To realize and implement the above recommendations, some fundamentals needed to be known well. We still do not have accurate or precise estimates of how many fishers are actively fishing in India, how many in each state, or who can be defined as a fisher. The participants learnt that clear or correct answers to these fundamental questions are still not forthcoming. Who are traditional fishers? More importantly, in a changing economy and climate and shifting ecological baselines, what do we mean by community, tradition and knowledge in inland fisheries?

The need for active applied research towards understanding more on these aspects was emphasized. It was pointed out that recognizing fishing rights based on traditional identity has direct connections with deep-rooted caste politics at local scales. How we overcome exclusionary politics over fisheries would be an important challenge to the sustainability and productivity of fishing tenure—in the process of granting rights and access to fishers.

Conflicts and complementarities

The dominant discourse of the workshop was on fishing rights, but the means to realize them were negotiated from multiple positions. Overall, there appeared to be broad agreement on the need for moving institutional regimes towards community-based and participatory management. Importantly, while the call for rights mostly came from fishworkers, activists and development workers,

government officials, scientists and NGO representatives emphasized more on the responsibilities of fishers that come along with their rights. The primary normative concerns of scientists were related to the state of freshwater ecosystems and their decline, which needed restoration for actually realizing the most benefits from the allocated rights. Legal concerns about the status of fishing rights in multi-use water bodies and the conflicts involved therein formed the mainstay of the views of scientists and officials. Scientists and policymakers often took a balancing position, while fishers and fishworkers remained largely focused on the granting of rights and access. The balancing or reconciliatory position was summed up well by a senior speaker, who said that we needed a "development-oriented" and "value-chain oriented" approach towards fishery management in a departure from current modes of operation, which are either only revenue-oriented or welfare-oriented.

There were some key outcomes of these alignments. First, several inland fisheries experts who were part of the drafting committee of the NIFAP were present; they did not appear overtly defensive of the NIFAP guidelines and were open to listening to the participants' varied concerns. It appeared that the workshop had succeeded in facilitating discussion in ways that sustained the dynamic and adaptive evolution that was envisioned for the policy.

Scientists and policymakers often took a balancing position, while fishers and fishworkers remained largely focused on the granting of rights and access.

Second, almost all participants agreed that the state fisheries departments needed more autonomy and should be the central institution to the vesting and transfer of rights. This derived consensus leads us to think about what would be the hypothetical point where fishing rights would truly become autonomous. Once fishing rights were granted according to sets of rules and principles, the role of the fisheries department role would be largely that of a regulator and an arbiter of conflicts. Or would it? A member of the audience asked why government officials do not initiate consultations with inland fishers proactively, rather than as reconciliation, response or reaction. This issue will remain as long as radical shifts happen towards stronger bottom-up management processes for inland fisheries. But such shifts have seen numerous endogenous and exogenous hurdles.

In the big policy vision for inland fisheries, there is a need to ideate about the social justice and ecological conservation goals that must be achieved first. A senior scientist said that fisheries has always been a "residual activity". This must change to allow inland fisheries, especially capture-based fisheries, to develop in an organic way.

Today's rights in future possibilities

The workshop tossed up difficult questions. One of the most telling examples of this came about in the exchange sessions when the translator for participants from Andhra Pradesh found it hard to share with the audience what he had just heard. The fisher representatives from Andhra had told him that the basis for providing fishing rights must be caste, that some so-called 'lower castes' had no business getting fishing rights. The translator appeared embarrassed as he went about translating. He told the audience that he was only translating and did not subscribe to what these participants had said. This shows how it's impossible to wish away caste in any matter pertaining to traditional fishing rights. Typically, we treat human rights and fishing rights as inseparable in matters of fisheries sustainability and development. Sound research has highlighted that human rights and fishing rights show convergences and divergences. Human rights are universal whereas fishing rights are specific. Thus achieving one could come at the cost of the other.

When we speak of shifting institutional management towards community involvement, where is the community we are talking about? If the community is to be defined by caste and tradition, it could lead to the exclusion of other socially and economically marginalized fishers. If the community is to be defined by locality and spatial access, seasonal fishers that traditionally visit specific water bodies to fish might get excluded. In short, we cannot take for granted the idea of what makes a fishing community. This becomes particularly important in regions such as Bihar where community institutions have eroded and fragmented. With distress-linked out-migration being a major determinant of active fishers across the Gangetic plains, few fishers remain on the ground to assert their rights in many areas. If we must go by the numbers, most members of particular fishing communities may not be fishing. Will they be recognized as fishers and granted rights? These issues are by no means simple. Policymakers or the people fishing on the ground don't understand them in their complexity. But that does not mean that they remain neglected or wished away in our continuing engagement.

Conclusions

The ICSF workshop was a remarkable and invested effort. It facilitated serious discussions on numerous issues affecting inland fisheries governance, tenure and rights. The primary draw of the workshop was that it deliberated on several aspects before the finalisation of the draft NIFAP. This generates hope. With its diverse representation across regions, its elaborate and cross-cutting recommendations, it provides NIFAP with an excellent opportunity to move forward. The destination of 'successful implementation' must be reached by taking the path of recognizing the multi-dimensional nature of inland fishers' rights. But this path is not all roses.

As NIFAP embarks on the ambitious effort of guiding state policies on inland fisheries, it must also take on the challenge of conflicts across a range of politics. In times of deepening social divisions, conflicts over identities, entitlements, priorities, resources and even histories, are very real in their political expressions. It is hoped that the collective learning at the workshop will remain cognizant of these generally unacknowledged realities. Will the implementation of NIFAP be successful in creating and sustaining a space for rights of inland fishers? Only time will tell. But a good beginning has been made at chewing the policy cud; more rumination always helps!.

For more

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No More Blood and Fire

For the first time in Chile, a new type of autonomous social movement, including fishworker organizations, seeks to create a democratic and representative constitution

Three major organizations in Chile have rejected the Social Agenda for Artisanal Fishers that President Sebastián Piñera's government had proposed. (The proposal is called 'Agenda social para los pescadores artesanales' in Spanish.) The three organizations—the Consejo Nacional por la Defensa del Patrimonio Pesquero (Condepp), the Confederación de Federaciones de Pescadores Artesanales de Chile (Confepach), and the Red Nacional de Mujeres de la Pesca Artesanal de Chile—together represent 80 per cent of the artisanal fishers in the South American country.

They said the proposal is characterized by clientalism, neither enabling a move "towards a politically just and socially equitable system," nor creating structural changes in the contested neoliberal political-economy context. Chile is experiencing its worst crisis since the 'imposition of blood and fire' in the mid-1970s under the civic-military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet.

The artisanal fishery organizations, together with a broad coalition of citizens' organizations, demand the annulment of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law 20.657 of 9 February 2013.

Since 18 October 2019, more than 2 mn citizens have initiated hundreds of peaceful protests on the streets and squares of the country's main cities. They have demonstrated against three decades of lopsided government policies that have concentrated power and wealth in the hands of one per cent of the population, which controls 36 per cent of the national income. This has brought in its wake massive indebtedness and impoverishment of the population due to low salaries, made worse by inadequate social-security systems and privatized pension schemes. Public education and healthcare systems have become even more precarious.

Since November 2019, this new coalition of artisanal fishery organizations have joined the broad social mobilization. Together, they demand the following:

(a) A democratic process, participative and informed by a constituent assembly, in order to develop a new constitution instead of the current one imposed in 1980 by the civic-military dictatorship.
(b) The elimination of the corrupt fishery and agriculture laws.
(c) The establishment of a new social covenant so that the State regains ownership and allocation rights of fishery resources without compensation.
(d) The State guaranteeing food security and the people's right to nutrition and food, based on sustainable artisanal fishing.

The artisanal fishery organizations, together with a broad coalition of citizens' organizations, demand the annulment of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law 20.657 of 9 February 2013. The annulment is important for social and environmental justice and to end the corrupt privatization of Chilean fisheries. This law is commonly known as the 'Longueira Fisheries Act', named after Pablo Longueira, the former finance minister and former presidential candidate. He pushed the legislation through parliament between 2011 and 2012, with the help of the large Chilean fishing companies and transnational corporations with headquarters in Japan, Iceland and Spain. Parliamentarians from all political parties backed it, with support also coming from leaders of

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the two principal Chilean artisanal fishery national confederations at the time.

This collusion enabled parliament to "expressly privatize" the Chilean fisheries, taking them out of democratic and public control. It is alleged that bribes were paid to hand over the ownership of fisheries for free—and in perpetuity—to seven family clans and transnational companies.

This led to seven years of fully tradeable fishing market shares—that can be sold, bought, mortgaged, rented and inherited by its owners. Consequently, 69 per cent of the major Chilean fisheries are in the hands of only four large companies, while 31 per cent of the remaining shares are divided between 97,000 vessel owners of artisanal fishery boats.

This neoliberal twist in policy is driven by exports and extraction. It has overexploitated 70 per cent of Chilean fisheries, taking them close to collapse, according to 2018 reports of the Undersecretary of Fisheries (called 'Subpesca').

An unpredictable political and social environment now prevails leading up to the referendum called by the Chilean regime on 26 April 2020. The Chilean public has to vote on whether or not it seeks a new constitution. Since November 2019, local cabildos (open forums) and autonomous citizens' assemblies have been organizing themselves; they have sought the participation of coastal communities, indigenous peoples and dock workers, as also student organizations and feminist groups.

Food security

The immediate demands of the social movement include, first, the annulment of the current fishing and agriculture law; second, the initiation of a participative and informed process in order to elaborate a new sustainable and equitable fishing and agriculture law; third, the restoration of the role of the State as the assigner of access and user rights to national fisheries resources; fourth, the restoration of the rights of small-scale fishers and indigenous communities; and fifth, ensuring that national food security is based on consuming fishery products sourced from domestic sustainable artisanal fisheries.

PATRICIO IGOR MELILLANCA

San Antonio fishermen protesting against the Longueira law. Its annulment is important for social and environmental justice and an end to the corrupt privatization of Chilean fisheries

This is unprecedented in Chile. A new kind of autonomous social movement is seeking to create a democratic and representative constitution that allows for the establishment of a pluri-nationalist, pluri-cultural, pluri-ethnic republic in which gender equality, decentralization and the recovery of fraudulently privatized natural resources and common goods (water, fish and mineral resources) is guaranteed. The movement hopes the new constitution will explicitly enshrine the rights to education, health, decent work, social security and a clean and healthy environment, as well as grant nature the status of a legal entity, obliging the State to protect and guarantee these rights.

The Chilean social movement recognizes that the severe problems and abuses afflicting with sea, its resources and coastal communities can be addressed only through social mobilization and public pressure. This should be an inherent part of the objective of democratizing the country and changing the prevailing neoliberal economic model. If this does not transpire, the current political, legislative and administrative system, derived from the civic-military dictatorship, would present few opportunities for achieving real and structural changes.

For more

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Leaving None Behind

Artisanal fishers' experiential knowledge contains qualities that can help the world face some of its most difficult problems including climate change. We need to value their wisdom

One: Fisheries sustainability and small-scale fisheries: new perspectives for valorizing artisanal fishers

Most maritime countries have neglected and shunned their small-scale fisheries since the mid-1950s. This was done in the name of fisheries development, to make the transition to a modernized large-scale fishing industry. Despite this historical neglect and lack of support small-scale fisheries continue to exist and even thrive in most countries around the world even today, seven decades later. Small-scale fisheries are still "too big to ignore". Their enormous resilience and continued relevance are supported today by a considerable body of research studies worldwide.

Policy opportunities for supporting small-scale fishers must focus on radically different reasons. This requires a deeper and more nuanced interpretation of the SSF Guidelines.

International agencies including—importantly—FAO have recently made clarion calls for support to small-scale fisheries, largely with the policy objective of alleviating poverty and supporting welfare needs. This orientation alone is inadequate because it fails to perceive and appreciate many of the innate qualities of small-scale fisheries. We need new perspectives for the future.

Policy opportunities for supporting small-scale fishers must focus on radically different reasons. This requires a deeper and more nuanced interpretation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines).

Small-scale fisher people must be valorized for several reasons and through several ways. Here are some:

For their phenomenal vernacular ecological knowledge: This is the result of their intimate knowledge of natural processes, which yields a holistic understanding of the local aquatic ecosystems that they relate with regularly.

For their innate contribution to biodiversity conservation through convivial technologies: This results from combining their vernacular ecosystem knowledge with their use of small, passive, seasonal, diverse, skill-intensive and convivial fishing craft-gear combinations.

For their largely owner-operated and collegial harvesting, which fosters greater equity and camaraderie in work: This is the result of work being viewed as livelihood and the resource as a shared heritage of the whole community.

For their cost-effective and energy-efficient operations with a lower carbon footprint: This is possible because, compared to all other types of fishing, small-scale fishers incur far lower costs to harvest a unit of fish due to limited use of non-renewable energy.

For their entrepreneurial prowess in making high private and social returns despite limited means: This is a combined function of ecological knowledge, convivial technologies, energy-efficient operations and a collective work ethic that are embedded in the socio-cultural fabric of their communities.

For their greater contribution to food security and wholesome

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RICARDO DE LUCA / FAO

John Kurien delivering his keynote address at FAO International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability, 18-21 November, 2019, Rome, Italy. Much of small-scale fishers' knowledge is encapsulated in pithy statements—economy with words, but prodigious with meaning

nutrition for local rural consumers at affordable prices: This happens due to the relatively smaller harvests, creating shorter value chains, mostly reaching the immediate hinterlands where they operate. In short, production by the masses for consumption by the masses.

For their generation of inclusive livelihoods — particularly among women — along these short value chains: This is due to the customary and familial orientation of their occupation.

For their provision of localized physical protection and security to coastal and riparian territory: This is made possible due to their spatially dispersed habitation and the ability to provide quick feedback about unusual events and activities.

For their vital contributions to the economy of their countries: This arises from, inter alia, the considerable foreign exchange from their fresh harvests; the tourist revenues they incidentally promote; and the significant ancillary employment they generate—all with negligible state subsidies.

For their protection of balanced life both below and above water: This is achieved by commitment to socially, culturally and economically embedded management practices of their aquatic 'community commons'. This creates a moral economy yielding greater socio-economic well-being, balanced with income and gender equity.

The list is even longer. It is obvious that supporting small-scale fishers and fisheries makes more ecological, economic, nutritional, social, cultural and moral sense. However, implementing this support will require practical and sustained support from three sources. One, there must be socio-political pressure from the dispersed micro-level struggles and also from the numerous examples of small-scale fishers doing things differently. The world bodies of small-scale fishers and their supporters have a crucial role in this task of aggregating the examples to create a global lobby.

Two, support from the committed researchers and scientists who have, over the last decades, diligently provided the solid scientific support for valorizing small-scale fisheries worldwide. They must continue to persevere in their efforts to provide

the synergistic push to goad the policymakers. Three, the national governments concerned, who must enact laws that guarantee the rights and democratic space for small-scale fisheries to flourish.

We are trending into a future with exciting possibilities. People are becoming 'prosumers'—at once producers and consumers); 3-D printing is challenging the virtue of economies of scale; the marginal cost of information is falling drastically; science-intensive use of renewable energy is gaining rapid ground; the call for globalizing localism, building creative commons, humanizing the economy and making it generative rather than extractive, is growing stronger.

Small-scale fishers and fisheries already imbibe many of these potentials. Given appropriate support and encouragement, they can become trailblazers. Rephrasing La Via Campesina, they can become the best bet "to feed the world (with fish) and cool the planet", two of the biggest global concerns today and into the future.

Two: Fisheries sustainability and climate change: Inclusive Knowledge Partnerships in the Age of Climate Change

Small-scale fishers have an elaborate understanding and special narratives about the sea, the coast, the fish, the wind, the currents, the stars and the inter-relationships between them. Much of their knowledge is encapsulated in pithy statements—economy with words, but prodigious with meaning.

Consider this: The sea starts in the mountains. Here's another: Sandy beaches make playgrounds for waves. From their frolic we divine the mood of the distant sea.

In November 2017, as a freak cyclone was brewing unannounced in the Arabian Sea, the elders of the village of Marianad in the Indian state of Kerala watched the manner in which the waves were breaking on the beach. They decided it would not be judicious to venture into the sea for the next few days. In many other villages in southern Kerala, where the beaches were totally eroded and replaced with stone seawalls, the fishers were unable to watch the play of the waves. They set out to fish. Two days later, while fishing, they became hapless victims of the freak cyclone.

Even at the beginning of this millennium the spectre of climate change was still viewed with some degree of cautious scepticism at national and international levels. In the words of author Amitav Ghosh, "It is humanity's great derangement that we refuse to grasp the scale and violence of climate change."

The experiential reality of extreme weather events and temperature change of the last two decades has resulted in a wider acceptance of an undeniable climate crisis looming large on land and at sea. As Pope Francis reminded us, "We must never forget that the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility of everyone."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has given adequate warnings about the bleak future scenario, supported with hard scientific facts. Scientists of FAO and others have eloquently articulated the impacts of climate change on marine ecosystem production in societies dependent on fisheries. There is no dearth of scientific facts, ominous warnings or ethical exaltations.

To achieve fisheries sustainability that will leave none behind we must understand and take into serious consideration the 'experiential and concrete lived reality' of fishing communities. They have been least responsible for climate change but they are on ground zero and always the first to be affected by the unpredictable conditions and extreme events. We need to reconcile the 'cognitive scientific facts' of global science with the collective responses spurred by the normative imaginations of fishing communities who deal with nature on a day-to-day basis.

People's actions when encountering these sudden, emergent, place-based and local situations yield an accumulated wealth of 'experiential

knowledge'. Sadly, this is not aggregated and transmitted up to the policy-making level. We must explicitly recognize that scientific knowledge is not the only type of knowledge relevant to a science-policy nexus. Other types of knowledge—local, indigenous, social, political, moral, religious and institutional—are also valid, exchanged and co-created.

Climate change is already spurring local-specific changes in fishery yields and species distribution. Fathoming these impacts will call for both good science and nuanced observation of local changes. Today we are well positioned to create a bridging opportunity that will put together a credible and inclusive research process and science-technology studies that will encompass relations between laboratory scientists and those neglected barefoot worker-scientists—our vastly knowledgeable fisherfolk. Such collaborative ventures within countries will lead to co-evolution and joint construction of knowledge, resulting in a visible difference in the lives of millions of ordinary fisher people, yielding greater fisheries sustainability in the age of climate change.

Three: Fisheries sustainability and the blue economy: Trans-Generational Justice

The concept of the Blue Economy has generated considerable discussions at a variety of global platforms and high-level panels formed by governments and civil society. However, children like Greta Thunberg and many others may want to ask the adult discussants a question: Will your numerous debates and discussions about the Blue Economy include your moral obligation towards us and ensure that we will have enough fish to eat and access to bountiful and clean seas to frolic in and enjoy?

The social, cultural and moral aspects of human society should extend beyond one's lifetime. But there is a contradiction in not wanting to discriminate against future generations and, at the same time, giving priority to those who are living now. In other words, you cannot save the fish for the future and eat it all now. This concept was well understood by the Urhobo people of the Niger Delta who say "resources belong to the dead, the living and those yet to be born". We have forgotten such wisdom but it will surely be the next generation's concern.

If we accept this position, then we are obliged to stand by the claim of future generations to the resources of the planet and be mindful of our own present consumption patterns. Mahatma Gandhi is often quoted to say that our planet's resources are adequate for everyone's needs but not everyone's greed. It is for this reason that the justice and equity perspectives regarding the Blue Economy—that have been well articulated by small-scale fisher organizations and their supporters—gain significance. While we rightly stress the issue of human rights for today, we also need to think beyond and raise the matter of trans-generational access and use of resources from the oceans.

By delving into this question, there is a big policy opportunity for the current generation to spearhead the normative agenda for trans-generational justice into the Blue Economy debates. We must give the welfare of future generations weight in our economic and moral decisions of today. Once again, to borrow from Gandhi's words, the future depends on what we do in the present.

For more

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Their Decision, Not Ours

The Darawa community in the Wakatobi National Park, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia, manages their octopus fishery by working tirelessly with community-based organizations

It was a beautiful and sunny Sunday. The Darawa village community in the Wakatobi National Park, in Indonesia's Southeast Sulawesi, was preparing to celebrate. The occasion was the first opening of Fulua Nto'oge, the 50 ha fishing site off One Mbiha beach which had been closed for three months. White steam billowed from four large cooking pots, stacked neatly over the fires. There were intoxicating aromas of lapa-lapa (rice cakes wrapped in coconut leaves) and seafood stews made from the most recent catch of crabs, squid, clams and snappers.

While the women were busy preparing this feast, young girls from the local schools were chatting enthusiastically as they finalized their colourful costumes for the traditional dance performance they were about to give. Generally, Darawa women are in charge of household chores and taking care of the kids, while men are the breadwinners. Some inspiring older women fishers have proved the exceptions to this rule.

The members of the community largely rely on the ocean for their livelihoods through octopus fishing or seaweed farming.

Darawa village is a community of 775 people, 105 of them are octopus fishers. The members of the community largely rely on the ocean for their livelihoods through octopus fishing or seaweed farming. For fishers, temporary fishery closures serve to give the octopus time to increase in size and reproduce, generating larger and more profitable catches and improved livelihoods. This management method has been quite successful in the Western Indian Ocean because the life cycle of an octopus is short. An octopus typically lives for 15-18 months and grows very quickly during the first six months, almost doubling in weight every month during this period. Large octopus command a higher price.

All fishing activity in the closure area is prohibited but people can continue to fish at 13 other sites nearby. These alternative locations mean that the closure does not significantly limit the fishing activity of Darawa's fishers. Darawa octopus fishers usually fish from morning until afternoon. As an export-oriented fishery, fishers will take the octopus to the seafood buyer and sell it between Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) 10,000 per kg (for octopus of less than 0.5 kg) to IDR35,000 per kg (for octopus weighing more than 1.5 kg). Through a series of middlemen and buyers, these octopus are sent towards bigger cities in Sulawesi, where they are processed and prepared for export to consumers abroad.

"We are very proud to be undertaking this temporary fishery closure in our village. This whole process has proved that the Darawa community can work together as a team when it comes to monitoring our fishing sites and managing our fisheries," said Pak Jumani, the village head.

"We have also been successful in encouraging neighbouring communities to follow our example. We will continue to use temporary fishery closures and will make it part of our village programme," he added.

This rousing speech moved the proud crowd of community members to applause. Thanks to the participatory fisheries monitoring system, Darawa villagers learned that they had landed

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INDAH RUFIATI

Forkani's Nusi disseminates the closure data at the feedback session and Forkani facilitated many community meetings in order to reach a consensus about the closure timing, location and regulations

up to five tonnes of octopus in 2018. For small-scale fishing communities with limited or no available data on their fishery resources, this information was key to enabling informed decision making. Recognizing the potential and importance of octopus fishing, the community agreed to close this fishing site for three months. The initial closure was a chance to learn how to manage their fishery resources, acting to protect them for future generations. "Our hope lies in the sea," said Pak Jumani.

From community to community

Forum Kahedupa Toudani (Forkani), a community-based organization in Wakatobi, has been supporting the community in Darawa village to start managing their own marine resources.

"We started by working with the community to ignite their curiosity and to help them gain a better understanding of their octopus fisheries," said Mursiati from the organization. "Forkani doesn't need the octopus data, it's theirs. They are the ones who will use and manage their natural resources to ensure that the octopus fishery will last for generations. That's why raising awareness is important," Mursiati said. She spoke from her heart with a shaking voice, recalling what they had been through before Darawa became the first village in Indonesia to declare the first temporary octopus fishery closure led by their own community.

Forkani facilitated many community meetings in order to reach a consensus about the closure timing, location and regulations. They also assisted in conversations and agreements with four neighbouring villages to ensure that they understood and respected the Darawa community's closure rules. "The idea of the temporary octopus fishery closure developed through community discussions on how to preserve their octopus resources," said Mursiati. "The challenge was that the closure area is an open-access fishing site for all fishers. It's quite difficult for the Darawa community to monitor the area. An additional complication was that the area is under the authority of the Wakatobi National Park, not Darawa village. So, the co-ordination among us was very important," she added.

Participatory monitoring and feedback sessions

Once the community agreed that they wanted to have better knowledge of their octopus resources, they began participating in octopus fishery monitoring. They started to collect data on their octopus fishery: the fisher's name, total catch, weight of individual octopus, sex of octopus and the fishing site. Taking a participatory approach to fisheries monitoring can provide fishers with meaningful opportunities to understand and participate in fisheries management. However, this process needs to be complemented by discussion platforms where the interpreted data can be regularly presented back and made accessible to communities through feedback sessions.

Forkani wanted the communities to understand the information they themselves had collected. So the data was presented in simple infographics to make it easier to understand. The data was patiently explained in the local language, so that the communities understood what the data represented. The Forkani team periodically receives the octopus catch data from their local data collectors. Its members have thought creatively about the many ways in which they can convey the data, once analysed, back to the fishing communities.

These feedback sessions were the entry point to further discussions about fisheries management with the community. During all these feedback sessions, Forkani and the community discussed the results of the closure and the next steps for furthering their octopus fishery management. For example, through the session, women octopus fishers expressed dissatisfaction about unequal opportunities to benefit from the village's first temporary octopus fishery closure, due to the depth of the closure site.

Male fishers go fishing using a small boat made from wood or fibreglass. They anchor the boat in the fishing area that has one-two metre-deep water. The men then put on swimming masks, swim and wade around the reef to fish for octopus using a metal spear. Female fishers go in the same kind of boat as the men, but they only fish for octopus during the low tide on areas exposed by the tidal cycle. They walk on the reef and fish, using a metal spear. Following this feedback at the community meeting, all the fishers decided to close an additional site next year. Importantly, they decided to prioritize women's access from the opening, using community-collected catch data, disaggregated by gender, to guide their planning.

Revival of a customary institution

Involvement from various stakeholders is fundamental in building community awareness from the beginning of the process. During the planning, closure, re-opening and data processing, Forkani engaged not just the community but also the village government, traditional leaders and national park authorities.

This first closure has led to stronger bonds of trust within the community, between neighbouring communities, with the government and with Forkani. These bonds have led to increased collaboration between all parties and the establishment of robust monitoring systems. This collaboration proves that the community has the capability for effective and sustainable management of their marine resources.

This first closure was a success and the Darawa community further organized three more temporary fishery closures—June-August 2018, January-March 2019 and June-August 2019. Building on these experiences, the Darawa community is now heading towards developing a broader plan for fisheries management through strengthening the role of a customary institution called 'Barata Kahedupa'. It consists of a structure, an institution and a customary area.

Barata Kahedupa has nine customary territories within Kaledupa District and nine areas outside. According to the history of Buton Kingdom, Barata was traditionally the point for the unification of autonomous territories. Each of the autonomous regions pays tax to the Central Kingdom of Buton. In each autonomous region of Barata, there is an authority with responsibility for overseeing environmental management, called 'Pengaksel (Wati)'.

Historically, Barata Kahedupa has a sea management policy which tells us that marine resource management practices have existed since long ago. For instance, in Kaledupa Island, nine Limbos (traditional villages) have their own sea management areas. People of the Limbo traditionally used natural signs to manage sea boundaries. If people in one community wanted to fish in another's waters, they had to give a part of their catch as payment.

Long ago, Barata Kahedupa also regulated the use of fishing gear and applied temporary fishing closures (hereafter called Namonu Sara) in the Laguna area. For managing the sea area, the central value underlying the management policies was called ambil sebagian, simpan untuk hari esok (it means 'take some, keep some for tomorrow'). Furthermore, the principles of good governance were built into the institution and its practice. For example, the head of the Limbo was elected by the conference of people through deliberative discussion.

The role of customary institutions governing resources is not limited to the ocean; forests are also being managed by traditional bodies. In Nusara, people divided the forest into two functions: production and protection. If people gathered resources within the forest, they would be fined in gold or were obligated to plant another tree.

Forkani and the community fought for legal recognition of this long-lost customary institution to help manage the ocean. It was successfully brought back to life through the regency regulation on the recognition of Wakatobi customary community law in 2018. The regulation is the first step in raising awareness of the importance of customary institutions. This will strengthen the body and its responsibilities over the marine resources that communities like Darawa depend on.

This recognition ensures that the early marine resource management efforts of the Darawa community can be embedded in legally recognized institutions with a clear mandate. Forkani's approach is to advise and support the community with a view to gradually step back from the active planning and organisation of fisheries management efforts. The community in Darawa is well supported to succeed.

INDAH RUFIATI

Larangi, the traditional dance of Kaledupa Island. Now, together with all stakeholders, the Darawa community is rebuilding their fisheries for future generations

The decision is theirs, not ours

Forkani's approach and values are a clear demonstration of what makes community-based organizations (CBOs) such effective advocates. This way of working ensures that small-scale fishing communities fully understand their rights in managing their natural resources and are equipped to exercise them.

"Every member of a community is responsible for the protection of their environment and the management of their resources, so it is vital that everyone works together. Only when you are confident in how to protect your environment can you truly show other communities in neighbouring villages that your regulations are worth respecting," said La Beloro, head of Forkani.

Natural resource management is effective when the community that relies on this fishery for their livelihoods take a leading role in the management decisions. Forkani works tirelessly in equipping coastal communities with the skills they need to manage their natural resources sustainably. Now, together with all stakeholders, the Darawa community is rebuilding their fisheries for future generations.

For more

https://blueventures.org/
Blue Ventures Beyond Conservation

https://www.icsf.net/en/proceedings/article/EN/104-indonesia-works.html?start=10
The Indonesia Workshop Report: Indonesia Workshop Report: Customary Institutions in Indonesia: Do They Have a Role in Fisheries and Coastal Area Management?

http://www.conservationandsociety.org/article.asp?issn=0972-4923;year=2015;volume=13;issue=2;spage=154;epage=165;aulast=von
Whose Threat Counts? Conservation Narratives in the Wakatobi National Park, Indonesia

A Platform for Women

Women in fisheries can utilize the SSF Guidelines to advance their interests, even as they relate to one another and build up solidarity and a common vision

Over the last several years, many fishworker organizations have been engaged in spreading awareness among the fishing communities on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). It is certainly a tool that can be used to advance the sustainability of small-scale fisheries, if sufficient pressure is applied on governments, despite the fact that there has been a massive change in the sector.

In India, in 2016, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) had organized a large national workshop to discuss the provisions of the SSF Guidelines with women in fisheries from various states (provinces). A follow-up workshop was organized in August 2019, this time focusing on states where women are better organized, in order to help them take the discussion towards concrete action. This was also in the backdrop of the National Policy on Marine Fisheries (NPMF), which was notified in late 2017 by the Government of India.

It was also clear that the socio-economic situation of women varied from state to state, with women in Maharashtra being the most advanced, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

It was deemed necessary to understand whether or not there was convergence of this national policy with the provisions of the SSF Guidelines.

The session was organized in collaboration with Nikita Gopal from the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), Kochi, and Ananthan PS from the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, (CIFE), Mumbai. Thirty women leaders from the states of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala got together for this three-day session.

The August workshop began with women sharing their activities and the issues they face in the workplace in their respective states. It was encouraging to see that women's organizing capacity in these states has progressed substantially and that they have been making their demands heard either through public demonstrations or by constantly applying pressure on the administration to safeguard their rights. Women's leadership is growing and is building links among women across districts. It was also clear that the socio-economic situation of women varied from state to state, with women in Maharashtra being the most advanced, followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. The variation in socio-economic situation also has to do with differences in fisheries across states. The first step was to help women not only to understand these differences but also to help them relate to one another, in order to build solidarity and a common vision.

While analysing NPMF, it was apparent that women do not even figure in the preamble. Although gender justice is mentioned as one of the pillars of the overall strategy, NPMF recognizes only post-harvest activities of women. It does not take into account other activities along the fisheries value chain that are performed by women. Nikita Gopal tried to emphasize and discuss those areas where gender mainstreaming could be advocated to benefit women. The reference to tenure rights of traditional fishermen under fisheries

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ICSF

Group photo of National Workshop on The SSF Guidelines and Mainstreaming Gender into Fisheries Policies and Legislation, YWCA, Chennai, India, 18-20 August, 2019. The group decided to create a national platform to design a mechanism to take up national issues

management, for example, could be broadened to also include secure tenure rights to fisherwomen. Areas can be reserved not only for traditional fishers under NPMF but also for fisherwomen to undertake traditional fish-drying activities. Territorial use rights, which are tenure rights, could thus pertain to water as well as to the rights of women over specific land areas to undertake fish-drying operations. In the case of mariculture, while encouraging small fishing communities, fishermen's groups and fishery co-operatives, fisherwomen's groups or co-operatives could also be created and encouraged to undertake and benefit from mariculture operations.

The education level of fishing communities was rising on the whole but still remains below the state average. The education status of women was below that of men, it was noted. Nikita Gopal indicated certain pockets where the education levels are falling. The premature death of the male parent often led to young boys being forced into fishing and leaving school. Also, the participation of mothers in fish vending led girls to drop out of school to take care of the family. In addition, poor access to educational institutions, located far away from home according to a sample study as reported to the workshop, led to dropping out of school. Health-related issues appeared to be common across states for women and were mainly related to the occupation of fish vending/fish processing, lack of water and sanitation infrastructure or just living at a distance from healthcare facilities.

The session on tenure rights and fisheries management highlighted the difference between the gender perspective in the NPMF and the SSF Guidelines and the need for women to use the latter to advocate for their rights. To do this effectively, it is important to better understand various terms and concepts such as 'the ecosystem-based approach', 'management', 'co-management' of fisheries resources, the 'value chain', and 'biodiversity conservation', as understanding of these terms is part of the requisite knowledge in engaging with fisheries issues while asserting their rights. Understanding these concepts would

help if women seek to make their claim included in management committees and to integrate issues that also affect their lives, in general.

After giving a broad outline on the gender budget, Ananthan PS talked about the budget allocations in the fisheries department. The Central Government has instructed that at least 30 per cent or nearly one-third of the funds under state programmes should go to women beneficiaries or to women-oriented programmes. Up to 2017-18, there were more than a dozen schemes under the Central Government. In 2018-2019, though, several schemes have been amalgamated under one called the 'Blue Revolution' scheme.

Although clarity is still required on the specificities of allocations, there is a 75 per cent grant-in-aid to self-help groups (SHGs) of women for the creation of modern hygienic fish-marketing infrastructure. This is available for retail fish markets and transportation infrastructure. Women were to be made to understand how they can demand budget allocations at the state level and how these allocations can be utilized. Ananthan highlighted how various state governments demanded and utilized the Central funds. Although women leaders were aware of the schemes, they were not aware of how allocations were made to these schemes. Once this process is understood, they would strategize to influence allocations to schemes that benefited women.

There was then a sharing of some innovative and successful development projects that the CIFT has been engaged with women, like the use of the fish dryer and the cultivation of clams and processing of clam meat.

All sessions were followed by group discussions so that women could digest the inputs and make their responses, which made the programme quite intense and indicated the interest on the part of fisherwomen to understand and share their experiences. Discussions were also held on labour issues within the framework of labour rights in India and other specific legislative provisions like The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, and The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013–all important pieces of legislation but not known to many of the participants.

On the concluding day, the state groups worked on their action plans. While sharing them, it emerged that some issues were specific to their regional context whicle others carried national relevance. The group decided to create a national platform to design a mechanism to take up some of these national issues. To begin with, the platform could take up two major issues: The first was related to budgets, monitoring how much of the budget allocations go to schemes that benefit women, and how they could lobby for this. The second was for the platform to work on demanding enhanced assistance from the state and Central governments to compensate for their non-fishing days, including fishing days lost due to the ban on fishing and fishing days lost due to bad weather conditions.

While the modalities of the functioning of the platform were not discussed, this will hopefully be taken forward in the coming year in order to advance the interests of women in fisheries.

For more

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National Workshop: The SSF Guidelines and Mainstreaming Gender into Fisheries Policies and Legislation, YWCA of Madras International Guest House, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, 18 to 20 August 2019

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Report on Workshop on Enhancing Capacities of Women Fishworkers in India for the Implementation of the SSF Guidelines, Chennai, India, 21-23 November 2016

Learning from Experience

The fishing industry in south-central Vietnam relies on co-management and the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM) to sustain the health of coastal marine areas

Vietnam's 3,260-km coastline hosts a diversity of marine resources such as coral reefs and seagrass beds as well as more than 1,080 species of fish. The health of Vietnam's coastal and marine ecosystems is fundamental to the food security, livelihoods and social stability of more than 4 mn Vietnamese people who directly or indirectly benefit from the exploitation of marine resources.

Small-scale fisheries are abundant in Bind Dinh, located in the southcentral coast of Vietnam, making up nearly 40 per cent of the country's small-scale fishing fleet. Fishing is a common source of livelihood and income generation at the household level.

The health of Vietnam's marine and coastal ecosystems and, therefore, the sustainability of Vietnam's fishing industry, is compromised by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities. They include overfishing and destructive methods like trawling and the use of explosives. These prevalent illegal practices destroy and deplete near-shore aquatic resources. The negative effects of overexploitation are visible. For example, fishermen's earnings from fishing activities are at times not enough to cover costs. These challenges are intensified by weak enforcement of the Fisheries Law of 2017 and other regulations that prohibit IUU fishing.

National and international organizations are currently using co-management and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM) to reduce the decline of coastal marine resources in Vietnam. They encourage sustainable development, protect the interests and rights of local communities and work toward removal of the 'yellow card' assigned by the European Commission.

Under the governance system called co-management, control over resources in a specified geographic area is shared between the state and community. It is part of the EAFM approach that integrates a balance of ecological wellbeing, human wellbeing and good governance into decision-making processes. EAFM helps valuable resources to replenish by protecting ecosystem stability and maximising ecological and social benefits in fishing areas. For this reason, EAFM has become common practice throughout Southeast Asia.

While fairly new in Vietnam, the national government supports the use of EAFM by agreeing to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) mooted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Policies, legislation, and practical experience with EAFM remain limited in Vietnam, but the practice is gradually being implemented at the local level.

National and international organizations are currently using co-management and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM) to reduce the decline of coastal marine resources in Vietnam.

Co-management and EAFM have been priorities for Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) since the Fisheries Law 2017 and Decree No. 26/2019/ND-CP came into effect on January 1, 2019, and April 25, 2019, respectively. The revised law formally defines the concept of co-management, while Article 10 of the decree provides guidelines for implementing the law and regulations for co-management

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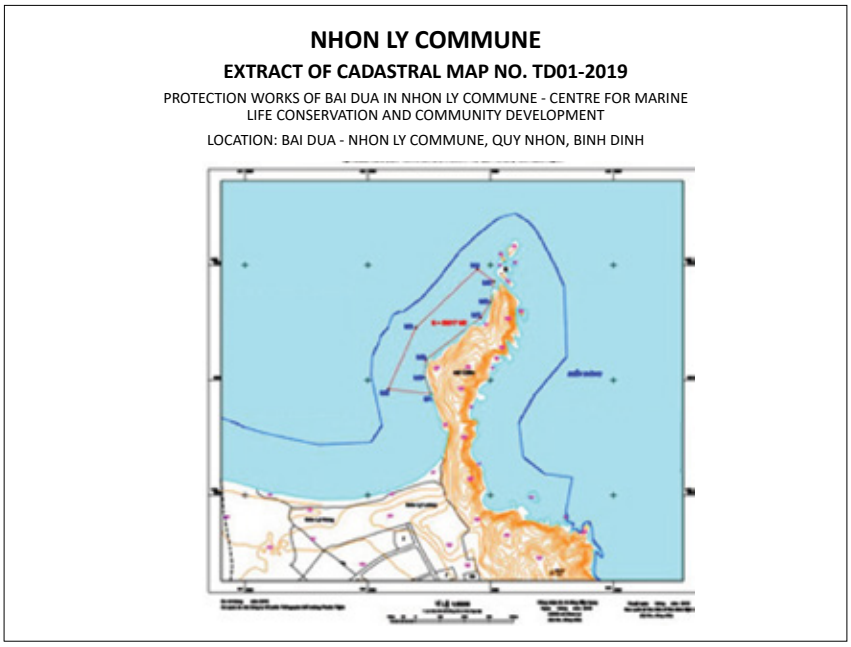

Figure 1: Map of Bai Dua Beach in Nhon Ly Commune, Quy Nhon LMMA, Binh Dinh

in the protection of fishery resources. The institutionalization of co-management through the highest form of legal documentation is a significant achievement.

The goals of Vietnam's Fisheries Law 2017 greatly align with the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines). These Guidelines are implemented in Vietnam by the Center for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD), with the support of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF). The SSF Guidelines are realized through improved policies, strategies and initiatives, such as those in Bai Dua, Nhon Ly, Quy Nhon Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA).

The Nhon Ly Community Organization is now legally recognized and responsible for the management, protection, exploitation, and development of aquatic resources in this area...

Co-management-in-law, EAFM in action

'Enhancing resilience of small-scale fishing communities and marine ecosystems in Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) in the South Central Coast of Vietnam', is the tile of the project implemented by MCD with the support of Hong Kong-based ADM Capital Foundation. It aims to strengthen institutional capacity, practice and policy development in coastal areas in South Central Vietnam by improving local capacity and experience with EAFM practices. Active from early 2017 through March 2020, this project intends to use EAFM to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and local communities, creating a model that could be used throughout the country. For instance, an EAFM plan for 2016-2020 was developed for the Quy Nhon LMMA in Binh Dinh province in the southcentral part of the country. Managed by Nhon Ly, Nhon Hai, Nhon Chau and Ghenh Reng communities, LMMA is home to a rich diversity of endemic species, including the orange-spotted grouper and the black sea cucumber, as well as 88 ha of coral reef, about 81 per cent of the coral reef in Binh Dinh's coastal area. The plan looks to reduce illegal fishing, protect important habitats, restore economically valuable fish populations, improve livelihoods, engage local communities in management and prevent overfishing, among other objectives.

Bai Dua has an estimated coral reef cover of 4.5 ha that offers a high diversity of species. According to Nha Trang Oceanographic Institute's survey in 2017, there are 207 types of aquatic species in Bai Dua. This number includes 11 species of seaweed, 14 species of echinoderm, 69 species of fish and 87 species of hard coral. The area is a spawning ground for many species such as bigfin reef squid, lobsters and snails.

Since 2016, there have been many tourism projects in Nhon Ly. It is estimated that 329,000 tourists visited the commune in 2018, a 6.2 per cent increase from 2017. The increase in tourism is creating jobs and improving the economic wellbeing of the residents; the total community revenue was 6.1 billion dong (42.9 mn dong per capita) in 2018, which is 18 times more than the revenue of 340 mn dong in 2015.

MCD

Small-scale fishing in Nhon Ly commune, Quy Nhon City, Binh Dinh province. Fishing is a common source of livelihood and income generation at the household level and in Binh Dinh, 80 per cent of the workforce are fishermen

Bai Dua is a critical area for community livelihoods and is greatly impacted by human activities, especially unplanned and uncontrolled tourism development. Local people and commune authorities in Nhon Ly agree that Bai Dua needs to be co-managed and protected by the local community in order to safeguard valuable marine resources from depletion. This makes Bai Dua an ideal location to apply co-management in accordance with the Fisheries Law 2017.

Relevant activities in Southcentral Vietnam include annual community assessments of coral reef health following three training sessions conducted by MCD, the Fisheries Sub-Department and local community groups, with support from Cu Lao Cham MPA, in the month of May during 2017-2019; an awareness-raising workshop in Quy Nhon City on September 28, 2018, supported by ICSF; and a National Policy Workshop to develop a Co-Management Action Plan for the Protection of Fishery Resources and Reduction of Illegal Fishing on May 3, 2019, organized by the Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) and MCD. These activities increased local capacity in and awareness of marine ecosystem and coastal resource conservation in Quy Nhon LMMA through community participation and policy development.

Strong support from community members and local authorities inspired MCD, the Sub-Department of Fisheries and the Binh Dinh Fisheries Association to support Nhon Ly commune in applying for recognition and assignment of rights to manage and protect Bai Dua's marine resources in 2019. Strong community support led to a high level of consensus on the management plan and operational regulations, including an agreement to contribute annually to a Community Fund to ensure the initiative's financial sustainability.

The community is developing the 'Plan for protection and exploitation of aquatic resources and tourism in Bai Dua' and the 'Regulation on operation of community groups'. The Plan notes the necessity of co-management; priority to protect aquatic resources; responsibilities, rights and power of the community and local authorities;

funding specifics; and zoning, patrol, supervision and coral reef protection teams.

The Regulation on Operation of Nhon Ly Community Representative Board for Aquatic Resource Protection consists of seven chapters and 32 articles that outline principles, objectives, organisational structure, operations, responsibilities, enforcement and powers of community organizations in co-management in accordance with Article 10.

Since the implementation of co-management, the commune has been able to further protect its resources by detecting illegal activities. The commune organized eight Border Guard patrols in 2018 wherein seven cases of off-line activity and one case of illegal diving were discovered.

Progress

Nhon Ly was the first locality in Vietnam to apply the co-management model under the Fisheries Law 2017. It is now also one of the few coastal communes selected to implement the Fishing Village Cultural Architecture Conservation Planning for Sustainable Community Tourism Development by the People's Committees of Binh Dinh Province and Quy Nhon City. The area has also been recommended to the Provincial Department of Tourism for a pilot community-based tourism model.

Participants at the two workshops in South Central Vietnam provided many recommendations to continue this progress, further improving co-management efforts and the Co-Management National Action Plan. Recommendations included increasing capacity and participation of community members; providing viable alternative livelihoods for fishermen; using science and technology to form comprehensive solutions; strengthening national and international collaboration; improving monitoring; creating specific, actionable objectives; using policy to encourage behaviour change; and developing localized action plans.

Managing the future

Despite the ongoing progress of the co-management model in Bai Dua, such as the increase of hard coral cover from 35 per cent in 2017 to 54 per cent in 2019. In Nhon Ly, fishing effort has decreased by 30 per cent since the households taking part in full-time fishing now have access to additional income from ecotourism. The area's coral reefs have become a popular tourist attraction. However, rapid tourism development has also caused increased water pollution from sewage; tourist boats and cruises to coral reef areas need to be regulated. These challenges must be overcome in Bai Dua and throughout Vietnam through further improvement of policies, strategies, and initiatives; implementation of co-management and EAFM; continued active participation of community members in planning, managing, protecting and exploiting marine resources in co-managed areas;

On 4 February 2020, the Nhon Ly Community Organization has been given the right to co-manage fisheries resources, pursuant to the Fisheries Law 2017. The Quy Nhon People's Committee passed Decision No. 445/QD-UBND approving the Plan for Protection and Exploitation of Aquatic Resources in Bai Dua sea area. The Nhon Ly Community Organization is now legally recognized and responsible for the management, protection, exploitation, and development of aquatic resources in this area, including consulting on relevant projects, patrolling and inspecting fisheries activities, preventing and handling violations, and establishing a Community Fund.

For more

http://mcdvietnam.org/en/
Centre for Marinelife Conservation and Community Development (MCD)

https://igssf.icsf.net/images/ICSF_FAO%20PROJECT1/VIE%20002b_Vietnam_National%20policy%20%20Worshop%20report%20May%2031st%202019.docx
Workshop Report National Consultation on the Development of an Action Plan for the Co-Management and Protection of Fishery Resources and Reduction of Illegal Fishing, Hanoi, May 31st, 2019

A Richness of Exchanges

At the celebration of World Fisheries' Day on 28 November, in Lorient, France, fishermen and students got together to recognize the wealth of fishers' knowledge and experience

For the 21st year running, the Collectif Pêche & Développement celebratedWorld Fisheries Day (November 21, 1997) at a symposium organized with UBS university and student participants on the theme 'Recognizing fishers' knowledge'. There is a trend towards the marginalization of fishermen, as highlighted in a statement to the European Commissioner for the Oceans: "Fisheries…is absent from the European Commission's strategy to ensure the growth of the blue economy"… and "sustainable fisheries and fishing communities are likely to be the losers." A student from Djibouti named Djoumah Ali observed: "It is not a question of denouncing all the measures or activities related to the blue economy but of taking into account the fishermen's opinions. This is not really the case today at the international level in the debates on the future of the oceans."

Training and experience

The symposium allowed the development of a rich and sometimes lively exchange between fishermen and students, with questions on the knowledge and practices of two retired fishermen. The fishermen displayed the richness of their knowledge and experience as they reflected on their own drifts in a framework without regulation until the 1980s. They insisted on the importance of getting the opportunity of learning with "tutors" who inspired them; it is on this basis that we can motivate young people to become fishermen today, they said. There was also a lively debate on the role of schools.

The fishermen who spoke said that experience is the only way to become a fisherman and that school education represented only 10 per cent of their knowledge. Becoming a fisherman's boss is not something that is given to all those with diplomas either—one must develop a permanent capacity to adapt in a constantly changing marine world. The teachers present acknowledged the lack of experience at sea amongst maritime high school students; they would like fishermen to invest more in the piloting of training centres.

Others, including a fisherman's wife, recalled that today a fisherman must master such knowledge as languages, law, ecology and safety drills. Finally, a fisherman must know how to manage human relations in order to maintain an efficient and stable crew. Another fisherman's wife reminded the audience that to be efficient, a fisherman must go to sea without being disturbed by personal and family worries.

The fishermen displayed the richness of their knowledge and experience as they reflected on their own drifts in a framework without regulation until the 1980s.

Pierre Vuarin from the UITC (International University of Citizen's Earth) concluded by stressing the importance of the common construction of knowledge in a process of permanent interpersonal exchanges between fishermen, scientists and society.

Scientists and fishermen: an indispensable relationship of trust

The afternoon was devoted to films including Océans 2 by Mathilde Jounot, showing the ability of today's fishermen to innovate to protect biodiversity and manage and restore

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stocks such as lobster or scallops by creating, if necessary, reserves under their control. Finally, a roundtable, led by René-Pierre Chever brought together scientists and fishworkers' representatives, emphasising the richness of the exchanges between fishermen and scientists to improve practices and better manage resources. The scientists recognized the need to rely on the knowledge of fishermen to manage the fishery.

Points of view may differ, but there is no calling into question the relationship of trust. Marie Savina-Rolland from the French National Institute of Ocean Science (IFREMER), showed the complexity of stock assessment based on her experience with sole in the Eastern Channel. Curiously, scientists are now judging the stock to be recovering; they are proposing to increase the quota when fishermen, for their part, see a stock in serious decline, which makes them unable to catch the allocated quota. The fishermen present called for an increased presence of researchers on their vessels, which is impossible for the researchers due to the limitations on available human resources. We can, therefore, see that the problems are no longer so much between the fishermen and the scientists with whom they work, but rather with other researchers focused on the biological approach to the oceans, disconnected from the links with the fishermen.

Knowledge and power

It is these biologists who now make the law in major international conferences and in UN bodies, with the exception of the FAO. A young Irish researcher called Edward J. Hind had devoted his thesis to the relationship between fishermen's knowledge and fisheries management. He said: "With the rise of neo-positivism, the democratic ideal began to disappear. In the environmental field, in particular, technocratic experts have become de facto advisers to Western governments on issues of public interest." These communities of experts constitute knowledge elites who play a political role.

Today, the debate is less about the state of stocks than about the state of biodiversity. Fishermen are among the main culprits in the face of threats to biodiversity. Yet fishermen have an interest in maintaining biodiversity and if they are able to take it into account, a fundamentalist vision of the defence of this biodiversity cannot satisfy them. Fishermen are now confronted with more porpoises and dolphins, probably because of the greater food resources in the open sea, and they are trying to find ways to avoid them. But it is not easy. The difficulties associated with the proliferation of seals in certain areas are also known. Finally, scallop fishermen have to get rid of starfish, not to mention the fact that their dredges change the seabed, which is a scandal for many biologists.

The fishermen also see the catastrophic effects of pollution and are the first to denounce it. Ali Djoumah, the student, put the problem in its proper perspective in her presentation: "For fishermen, respecting their rights and recognizing their world also means answering society's questions about protecting the oceans and taking marine biodiversity into account. It is, therefore, up to everyone to be open to debate and question, and thus to be a stakeholder in the preparation of the future of the oceans."

For more

https://peche-dev.org/spip.php?article276
Call to the European Commission: An inclusive oceans strategy is needed to ensure sustainable fishing communities

http://hdl.handle.net/10379/3022
Edward Jeremy HIND. Last of the hunters or the next scientists? Arguments for and against the inclusion of fishers and their knowledge in mainstream fisheries management. NUI Galway, 2012, 347 p

Bridging the Global with the Local

Against the backdrop of the need to operationalize the SSF Guidelines in a participatory manner, the role of the local governance system of India cannot be overemphasized

As a complement to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has developed the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines). The objectives of the SSF Guidelines are to be achieved "...by empowering small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women, to participate in decision-making processes", paying "... particular attention... to decentralized and local government structures directly involved in governance and development processes together with small-scale fishing communities...". The CCRF and the SSF Guidelines are global instruments aimed at states and fishing communities, in particular, towards long-term sustainable use of fisheries resources and sustainable development.

Although the diversity of regions and communities is a challenge to the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, the local governance system of India is conducive to operationalising the SSF Guidelines at the local level. The Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) of the Ministry of Panchayat Raj (MoPR), initiated since 2015, is relevant in this context. The GPDP, prepared through a participatory, bottom-up process, can be an effective tool for implementing the SSF Guidelines, especially in light of the People's Plan campaign of Kerala.

Local governance in India

With the passing of the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Indian constitution in 1992, both the rural and urban local self- government institutions (LSGIs) in India came into force in 1993 with the twin objectives of local economic development and social justice. Following the federal system, in addition to Union (Tier I) and the states (Tier II), the LSGIs are enshrined in the Indian Constitution as Tier III. Local governments are empowered to form a Gram Sabha (Village Assembly), a platform at the grassroots to ensure people's participation.

People's plan campaign

The state of Kerala has a mechanism in place to benefit traditional fishing communities at the local level. The Government of Kerala introduced decentralization through the People's Plan campaign in 1996 and took steps to address the livelihood issues of small-scale fisher people. The Working Groups (sectoral planning committees of LSGIs) envisaged as part of the People's Plan campaign provide a collective platform for the elected representatives, officials and local experts to develop plans. The provision to constitute a Working Group on Fisheries is also of benefit to the fisheries sector. Matsya Bhavan was set up in 1997 to bring together the services of multiple government agencies in fisheries to benefit marine fishing communities, as well as to facilitate the formulation of Local Plans in the fisheries sector.

Several studies conducted by the authors of this article in the late 1990s and early 2000s showed that the Matsya Bhavan should be complemented with an exclusive platform for fisher people, called Matsya Sabha (Assembly of Fisher People) for effectively

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ICSF

ICSF-KILA National workshop on panchayats (local self Governments) and the SSF Guidelines, Kila, Thrissur, India on 5-6 November 2019. To ensure greater participation of fishing communities it is desirable to create coastal constituencies and reserve the seats

representing the fisheries sector in local planning. These studies recommended re-aligning Matsya Bhavan and creating and mandating Matsya Sabha as a subset of the Gram Sabha for effective participation of the fisher people in the planning process. These communities often found themselves marginalized in the Gram Sabha deliberations, since they were less articulate about their issues in the presence of dominant members of the majority non-fishing communities.

Following the above recommendation, at the beginning of the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012), the Kerala Institute for Local Administration (KILA) proposed a Matsya Sabha at the ward level (the smallest geographic segment of the gram panchayat) in coastal areas to attain the true spirit of participatory and deliberative democracy. The state government, during the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), accepted and implemented the proposal. Matsya Sabha was set up in 2012 to strengthen democratic participation of traditional fisher people in the planning process of LSGIs. Matsya Bhavan is to regularly report the decisions of the Matsya Sabha to the Working Group on Fisheries.

Deliberative democracy through Matsya Sabha

While the Gram Sabha is an all-encompassing forum, representing the entire geographical ward and its population with electoral franchise and responsible for all development demands of the ward that comes under the purview of the LSGIs, the Matsya Sabha is to ensure that fisher people have equal rights similar to other citizens of India and that they can exercise their rights and benefit from funds earmarked for fisheries and fisher people.

Fisher people component plan

Although there are several divisions and sub-divisions within the fisher people, they are, overall, at the bottom of the caste hierarchy of Kerala. As per the Kerala government classification, fisher people belong to the other eligible communities (OECs) or other backward communities (OBCs) list. This reveals their social and economic backwardness. Owing to this, fisher people have time and again argued for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. This has not been heeded but there is legitimacy in arguing that they should be considered as 'other weaker

sections' and be accorded special drivers and economic packages such as the 'Fisher People Component Plan' (FCP) under LSGIs. It would be similar to the Women Component Plan (WCP) of LSGIs whereby 10 per cent of the plan outlay, at least, is to be earmarked for addressing issues related to women.

In conjunction, it is necessary to address the absence of a proper monitoring mechanism of FCP. Although the Working Group is entrusted with the task of monitoring during the implementation of the plan, measurable targets and indicators are yet to be developed along the lines of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are broader aspirations but the attainment of these SDGs is monitored through measurable targets and indicators (169 targets and 300 indicators for 17 Goals). Operationalising the SSF Guidelines at the local level could get a boost from incorporating measurable targets and indicators.

Delimiting electoral constituency boundaries

In the present electoral scenario, traditional fisher people cannot enjoy an equal position in any constituency in LSGIs' elections. Fisher people form a minority in the wards because of limitations of constituency demarcation. Each electoral ward boundary (as in LSGIs) is drawn vertically to the coast, whereas the fisher people's habitations are along and parallel to the coast. The majority land area in this scenario falls into the interior and away from the coastal stretch. Unsurprisingly, the non-fishing population constitutes the majority in coastal wards. This kind of ward demarcation leads to the denial of the traditional and historic rights of fishing communities. The scenario can only be changed if the constituencies are re-drawn, consistent with the fisher people's habitations. The Task Force on Livelihood-Secure Fishing Communities of Kerala, constituted by State Planning Board in 1997, had identified the gravity of this issue and made recommendations to mitigate the situation to ensure livelihood security. The Task Force observes the following: "To ensure greater participation of fishing communities in the democratic process at all levels, it is desirable to create coastal constituencies and reserve the seats for members of the fishing communities." The de-limitation demand of the fisher people is just and seeks to correct an unfair representation pattern that has been in place for decades. An acceptance of this demand is yet to be made.

Next steps

In conclusion, as an effective umbrella, local governance in India and GPDP offer an ideal opportunity to operationalize the SSF Guidelines amongst marine fishing communities. Each coastal state in India has its own vision and policy regarding local governance and there is no uniform implementation plan. The platforms initiated by Kerala—the People's Plan campaign in general and the fisheries sector-specific platforms in particular—would enable a participatory governance system as envisaged by the SSF Guidelines. Combining these platforms is necessary to address stark realities at the ground level. Also, targets and indicators in relation to the SSF Guidelines need to be developed. Piloting these in a sample selection of fishing villages may be an immediate agenda item to be taken up for action.

For more

https://igssf.icsf.net/en/page/1097-India%20Local%20Self-Governments%20and%20SSF%20Guidelines.html
The ICSF - KILA National Workshop on Local Self-Governments and SSF Guidelines, Thrissur, Kerala, 5-6 November, 2019

https://igssf.icsf.net/images/ICSF_FAO%20PROJECT1/IND%20001bLocal%20Self%20Government%20workshop%20Report.doc
Workshop draft report

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb1P6t3cwRg&feature=youtu.be
Inaugural Address: Shri. S. Venkatesapathy, Director of Fisheries, Government of Kerala (Video)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-9Wuz6J_YY&feature=youtu.be
Valedictory Address: Shri. S. M. Vijayanand, Chairman, Sixth State Finance Commission, Government of Kerala (VIDEO)

Rise Up!

The RISE UP Blue Call to Action is a joint call by civil society, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples and philanthropic organizations for bold action to safeguard the ocean at the next UN Ocean Conference in Portugal from 2-6 June 2020

This is a joint statement by:

Oceano Azul Foundation
Ocean Unite
Oak Foundation
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Marine Conservation Institute
Hish Seas Alliance
Oceana
NRDC
Waitt Institute
Waitt Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation
Conservation International
The Ocean Policy Research Institute, Sasakawa Peace Foundation
RARE
Seas at Risk
Wildlife Conservation Society
Oceanario de Lisboa
Monterey Bay Aquarium
World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Ocean Conservancy
International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF)
Monaco Blue Institute
L'Institut Océanographique de Monaco
The ICCA Consortium

The ocean sustains all life on our planet and is fundamental to human survival and well-being. Now is the time to RISE UP in its defense.

Coral reef die-offs, collapsing fish populations and species extinctions are evidence of the escalating ocean crisis brought about by overfishing, ocean heating, acidification, pollution and multiple other stressors. They are eroding the ocean's ability to function as our life support system. Defending its capacity to produce oxygen, sequester carbon and provide food and livelihoods for billions of people is vital.

Thriving coastal areas, a resilient deep ocean, abundant nature and protected high seas will help sustain all humankind and support the culture and well-being of Indigenous peoples and coastal communities. A healthy ocean is fundamental to a healthy planet, and makes a hopeful future possible for current and future generations.

At most we have 10 years to stay below the 1.5°C heating threshold and avoid the existential risks to nature and people that crossing it will bring. We have a choice: either we continue to follow a destructive extractive economic model that will take us ever faster towards environmental, social and economic disaster; or we choose transformative change that respects and bolsters our ocean, its resources, its biodiversity, and the global community that rely on it.

2020 is the year in which we can drive bold, fair actions to set the ocean on a course to recovery.

The conditions are ideal for governments and other stakeholders to take action. There is a globally agreed SDG14 framework, the inescapable science of the IPCC's *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, the IPBES *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, and a rising wave of citizen engagement.

Young people in particular are getting involved: we need to listen to our youth, as their lives will be shaped by the actions we take now.

Some measures to address the ocean crisis have been adopted but they have not been fully implemented. They must be actioned immediately—and we need to go much further. We the undersigned are committed to ensuring a healthy blue future. We call on governments and businesses to join us and RISE UP for the ocean.

Restore ocean life

Goals

(i) sustainably manage the world's fisheries and safeguard the livelihoods they support;
(ii) stop overfishing and destructive fishing; and
(iii) protect and restore threatened and endangered species, habitats and ecological functions

Priority actions

* Urgently restore depleted fisheries and sensitive habitats (such as coral reefs), and protect threatened and endangered species.
* Within territorial seas, prioritize access for sustainable small-scale fishing, prevent industrial threats, and recognize and promote community-based management.
* Prohibit damaging fishing, such as destructive bottom-trawling and blast fishing, and promote gears and techniques that minimize the catch of non-target species.
* Prohibit new or expanded exploitation of krill, mesopelagic and deep-sea species.
* Ensure transparency in all fisheries through the collection and public disclosure of information such as registration, catch, vessel tracking, licensing and other data, to deter illegal and unreported fishing, prevent human rights abuses, improve decision-making and combat corruption.
* Adopt registration, licensing and monitoring systems to address unregulated fisheries.

Invest immediately in a net-zero carbon emissions future

Goals

(i) minimize greenhouse gas emissions to ensure we meet the Paris Agreement's target to keep heating below 1.5°C; and
(ii) restore the ocean's full natural capacity to sequester and store carbon through nature-based solutions.

Priority actions

* Immediately ban all new offshore oil and gas exploration and production, and rapidly phase out current offshore oil and gas extraction.
* Target 100 per cent decarbonization of all shipping by 2035, and immediately ban heavy fuel oil use in the Arctic.
* Invest in nature-based solutions to maximize marine carbon sequestration and storage potential (e.g. protecting and restoring wetlands, mangroves and seagrass beds, and rebuilding wildlife).

* Invest in low-impact ocean-based renewable energy sectors.
* Commit to new and more ambitious national climate plans (NDCs) in 2020 that include the ocean (e.g. blue carbon storage, reduced emissions from ocean sectors, enhanced environmental and social resilience, adaptation benefits from ocean ecosystems), and accelerate their implementation.

Speed the transition to a circular and sustainable economy

Goals

(i) invest more in innovation and development to rapidly transition to a circular economy, including by moving to a sustainable and inclusive blue economy; and (ii) phase out destructive ocean activities to ensure that economic growth does not continue to degrade the marine environment.

Priority actions

* Transition to a new, more sustainable and inclusive blue economy focused on: (i) low-impact offshore renewable energies; (ii) environmentally-friendly aquaculture and marine biotechnology; (iii) green shipping; (iv) ocean monitoring and surveillance technologies; and (v) sustainable fisheries.
* Redirect finance flows to drive investment in support of this agenda, creating innovative finance and insurance products that enhance the ocean's natural capital and resilience.
* Immediately incorporate the ocean's value into economic decision-making, through natural and social capital accounting and in cost-benefit analysis.
* End all harmful exemptions and subsidies for fossil fuel, oil and gas drilling, and detrimental fishing and agricultural practices.
* Eliminate all non-essential single use plastics and reduce plastic production by implementing zero-waste strategies by 2025.
* Stop any further development of new activities which harm ocean health, such as seabed mining.

Empower and support coastal people

Goal

(i) strengthen the ability of local coastal communities, Indigenous peoples and small-scale fishers and fishworkers, especially women and youth, to conserve biodiversity, safeguard food security, build climate resilience and eradicate poverty

Priority actions

* In compliance with their free, prior and informed consent, ensure full and effective participation in the governance and management of biodiversity and natural resources.
* Promote food security and poverty eradication through the immediate implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.
* Recognize, protect and secure legitimate tenure rights to marine resources important for livelihoods and sociocultural wellbeing.
* Recognize the critical importance of ancestral, Indigenous and local knowledge and ensure it is incorporated in decision-making.

Unite for stronger global ocean governance

Goal

(i) establish effective and equitable global governance to protect the ocean, and ensure the participation of Indigenous and coastal communities in these processes.

Priority actions

* In 2020, adopt a new legally-binding UN agreement on high seas biodiversity that ensures robust protection including the rapid establishment of a network of fully protected MPAs, and enhances cooperation among global, regional and sectoral bodies.
* Adopt an international agreement to significantly reduce nutrient, sediment, plastic and chemical pollution of the ocean by industry, agriculture, waste management and sewage.
* Convene a Heads of State conference by 2023 that reviews the implementation of this call to action and adopts fully financed solutions that guarantee oversight and integrated, accountable global ocean governance.

Protect at least 30 per cent of the ocean by 2030

Goals

(i) establish a global network of effective and representative marine protected and Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IPLC) conserved areas that are fully or highly protected to provide climate, food security, livelihood and biodiversity benefits; and
(ii) ensure these areas are sufficiently funded and that agreed protection plans are fully implemented.

Priority actions

* Adopt the 30 per cent protection by 2030 (30x30) target into the new 2030 Global Deal for Nature by the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020.
* Accelerate progress to ensure that this network of fully or highly protected and conserved areas cover at least 30 per cent of the global ocean by 2030.
* Immediately protect or conserve pristine marine areas.
* Develop ambitious global financial instruments to implement and enforce existing and new protected and conserved areas, particularly for small island and developing states; and promote capacity-strengthening for management authorities, Indigenous peoples and local communities.
* Recognize the biodiversity contributions of protected and conserved areas of all governance types, including marine areas conserved by IPLCs as traditional owners of their territories of life.

(Note: In May 2019, the Oceano Azul Foundation partnered together with Ocean Unite and Oak Foundation to bring together a small but influential group of organizations and foundations to agree on common priorities, objectives, and targets that drive solutions for the ocean crisis and raise the level of ambition for action.)

For more

https://www.riseupfortheocean.org/
RISE UP: A blue call to action

www.oceanunite.org
Ocean Unite

https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/292
Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 9 May 2019 -73/292

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332219302751
The Blue Acceleration: The Trajectory of Human Expansion into the Ocean

https://issuu.com/g20magazine/docs/lse_section_final_singles_digital
Global Briefing Report "Green" to "Blue Finance The London School of Economics

https://phys.org/news/2018-12-ocean-health-index-seventh-annual.html
Ocean Health Index releases seventh annual assessment of global ocean health

Blue Justice

In this book, Svein Jentoft argues, with concise and precise logic, that we should not lose sight of communities when extending our perspective to the world of fisheries at large

Life above Water: Essays on Human Experiences of Small-Scale Fisheries. TBTI Global Book Series 1, 2019

Svein Jentoft is well known to readers of *SAMUDRA Report*. Many of us eagerly look forward to Jentoft's incisive comments on small-scale fisheries, fishing communities, human rights, gender, co-management, governance, and related topics. However, some of us don't know that these articles are based on talks Jentoft has given in various parts of the world. That is why they are easy to read, and so concise and precise with flawless logic. Although Jentoft's own research is mainly about Norwegian fisheries, his talks and articles are of global interest. They are also timeless. For example, his 1999 *SAMUDRA Report* article, "Beyond the Veil", about gender roles in fishing communities, is, in my view, still the seminal article on this topic.

For all these reasons, Jentoft's new book, *Life above Water*, is going to be of huge interest to *SAMUDRA Report* readers and to many others. The title is a word-play on the rather silly name of the UN Sustainable Development Goal No. 14, "Life below water". In my mind's eye, I can just see Jentoft, with his dry Norwegian sense of humour, pointing out at the podium that if Sustainable Development is about people, Goal No. 14 better be mostly about fishers and fishing communities, to make any sense at all. Chapter 18, "Life above water" (that gives the name to the book) is a good summary of the issue. Jentoft says (pgs.135/136) :

> … *It is important when extending our perspective to the world of fisheries at large… that we do not lose sight of communities. If we forget about communities, we also lose sight of small-scale fisheries, thereby missing a lot the life that is lived above the water… With the millions of people engaged in the sector, small-scale fisheries are too important and too big to ignore.*

Jentoft is, of course, one of the original members of the TBTI (Too Big To Ignore) network. It is a global research network and knowledge mobilization partnership that focuses on small-scale fisheries. In another major contribution, Jentoft was a Norwegian representative in the drafting of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (the SSF Guidelines) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which established some international principles and good practices for fishery policymakers to follow. But UN and FAO "guidelines" are just that. They are only advisory or prescriptive: much depends on the policy responses of nation states and other critical actors. Although the SSF Guidelines mention communities 72 times *(Life above Water, p. 145)*, this does not mean policymakers will somehow acknowledge the importance of community and change course accordingly. Getting such points across has been a lifelong battle for Jentoft, and will continue to be a challenge for many of us for years to come.

As the SSF Guidelines point out, small-scale fisheries contribute about half of the global fish catch. If one looks at the total harvest destined for direct human consumption, the share contributed by small-scale fisheries increases to two-thirds. Small-scale fisheries are, therefore, important for

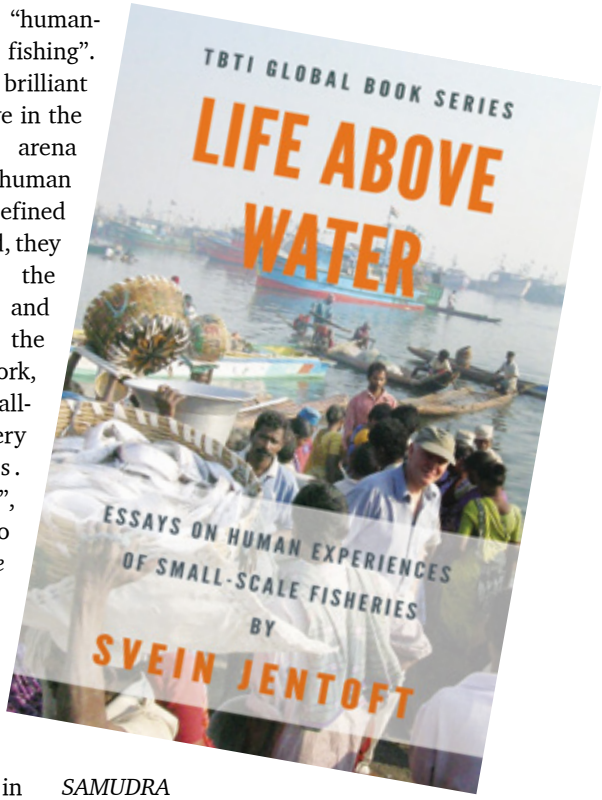
Now all we have to do is to find a way to get policy-makers and decision-makers to read *Life above Water* and internalize it.

This review is by ***Fikret Berkes*** *(Fikret.Berkes@umanitoba.ca), distinguished Professor Emeritus, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba, Canada*

food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource use. These are global concerns for all – fishers, their communities, researchers, managers, and decision-makers. Jentoft makes it clear in the foreword that the "book is not aimed at an academic research audience." In fact, he points out, "the ivory tower can be a dull place at times." The book, he says, is aimed at non-academics *(Life above Water, pgs. xv, xvi)*.

Nevertheless, many of the articles seem to be addressing "social scientists", presumably because many of the invitations for the talks that led to the articles in the book probably came from social-science departments and faculties. Hence, here and there, the contents of the book seem to contradict the stated objective of aiming at non-academics. To the extent that the book will engage academics, I would think that it would be of interest to transdisciplinary academics, not just to social scientists (who already know much of this) and not to biologists and economists (many of whom will keep doing what biologists and economists do). This is recognized in the theme and title of Jentoft's other recent book, *Transdisciplinarity for Small-Scale Fisheries Governance* (edited by Ratana Chuenpagdee and Svein Jentoft. Springer, 2019).

So what are some of Jentoft's insights and messages? A full list would not be possible here, but they include the points about the importance of secure resource tenure; significance of moral communities for trust, leading to self-management; and the fact that "as governments have become more ambitious as governors of fisheries, they have also become more intrusive into the life of communities, turning them into passive receivers of management systems" *(Life above Water, pg. 146)*. One of my favourite Jentoft insights (because I initially overlooked it) concerns "rights-based fishing". I missed it because I work in the area of commons, and rights-based fishing seems, well, just right. Yes, except that "rights-based fishing" has been co-opted in recent years by proponents of industrial fisheries. So the phrase has become "a proxy for privatization and individual transferable quotas" *(Life above Water, pg. 146)*. Hence, the proponents of small-scale fisheries, Jentoft included, now speak of "human-rights-based fishing". I think it is a brilliant strategic move in the international arena because, as human rights gets defined and redefined, they do include the right to life and liberty and the right to work, including small-scale fishery livelihoods. "Blue justice", Chapter 30 of *Life above Water*, captures the broader point.



Articles published in *SAMUDRA Report* between 1999 and 2018 make up about half (14) of the 30 short chapters in the book. A few (four) of the others were published in various other sources. The rest of the chapters are also based on talks but have not been previously published. Many thanks are due to *SAMUDRA Report* and other sources for permissions to reprint these articles. This is a collection worth its weight in gold! Now all we have to do is to find a way to get policymakers and decisionmakers to read *Life above Water* and internalize it.

For more

https://www.springer.com/in/book/9783319550732
The Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines: Global Implementation

https://www.springer.com/in/book/9789400715813
Poverty Mosaics: Realities and Prospects in Small-Scale Fisheries

https://maritimestudiesjournal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40152-014-0016-3
Walking the talk: implementing the international voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries

FISHERIES LIVELIHOODS

Coronavirus hits Torres Strait's traditional fishers as rock lobster market hits rock bottom

January and February are usually the busiest time of year for longtime Torres Strait fisherman Boggo Billy. Ordinarily, just before dawn or dusk, he would navigate out in a dinghy from his home on Warraber, a 37-ha island between the top of Cape York and the southern coast of Papua New Guinea, which is home to around 250 people. The reefs around the island teem with life: bêche-de-mer (sea cucumbers), dugongs, crabs and tropical rock lobsters that are usually worth around $70 a kg from middlemen supplying fish markets in China.

Billy's local knowledge, inherited from generations before him, means he knows when "the good tides" will roll in and what they mean for the crustaceans, which leaves him perfectly poised to capitalise on the boom brought on by lunar new year.

But this year the boom was a bust. Live crayfish prices plummeted after the outbreak of coronavirus in December. China cancelled many lunar new year celebrations and banned the import of live seafood.

On the Torres Strait, rock lobsters are the region's second-most valuable fishery and a vital source of income for people in small island communities. Now, Billy says, "you've got to try and get many more crayfish to make $1,000".

Rather than increasing the size of their catch, which could cause problems in the heavily regulated industry, most fishermen have chosen to stay ashore...

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/feb/23/coronavirus-hits-torres-straits-traditional-fishers-as-rock-lobster-market-hits-rock-bottom

SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

Illegal industrial fishing hampers small-scale African fisheries

In a study published in the journal Fish and Fisheries, a team of researchers shows that nearly 6 per cent of the industrial fishing effort in the waters around 33 African countries and territories occurs in zones reserved for small-scale fishing communities. In some places, that figure is much higher in what the authors describe as "the most common form of illegal fishing in the region."

These incursions threaten the sustainability of fish stocks, create conflict over those resources, and endanger the lives of the fishers themselves, said Dyhia Belhabib, the study's lead author. "In West Africa, for example, 250 people every year die in collisions with industrial vessels within their artisanal waters," Belhabib, principal investigator for fisheries at the NGO Ecotrust Canada, said in an interview. "And this is not a small number."

The study builds on data from the research platform Global Fishing Watch, which tracks the positions of fishing vessels through their onboard automatic identification system, or AIS. This system was initially designed to keep ships from running into each other. But it has since become an indispensable tool for authorities and conservation groups to verify that fleets are complying with the laws of the country in whose waters they're operating.

Source: https://www.ippmedia.com/en/features/%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8Billegal-industrial-fishing-hampers-smallscale-african-fisheries

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

NPSSFW(I), the National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (Inland)

NPSSFW(I) stands and advocates for a fisheries policy that protects both the fish resources and the small and marginalized fishing communities' right to use the fish resources in harmony with nature. It works to establish an alternative system for sustainable development with peoples' rights. It was established because India did not have any national organization of inland small-scale fish workers with this mission and vision. It seeks to build on the awareness and capacity of the community, campaigning for policies and programmes that protect their rights and entitlements at the national level. It includes fishers, fish farmers, fish vendors and other workers related to fisheries.

Constituted in 2016 as a united forum for inland fish workers' organizations, NPSSFW(I) had raised from its inception the demand for a national policy on inland fisheries. Its work bore fruit when the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare constituted an expert committee to prepare a draft policy. In 2017 the platform has produced a comprehensive position paper on the national policy through a rigorous research and discussions among fishing community representatives and activists from 10 states. The expert committee received the recommendations with appreciation.

When a national workshop was held on April 26-27, 2018, in Mumbai, NPSSFW(I) was present. It organized the first consultative meeting with civil society organizations on livelihood issues of inland fishworkers on July 10, 2018, in Delhi. The platform moved the ministry's Department of Fisheries a number of times to publish the draft policy for public comments. The Draft National Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (NIFAP) was published in February 2019. NPSSFW(I) worked tirelessly to serve its constituents.

Along with policy issues, NPSSFW(I) is engaged in awareness and capacity building of the small-scale fish workers to protect their livelihood and its natural resource base.

Organizations from 18 states are affiliated to NPSSFW(I). They have more than 60,000 members. Any organization seeking NPSSFW(I)'s affiliation can apply. It must accept the mission document and agree to abide by the platform's norms of cooperation and self-discipline. NPSSFW(I)'s National Committee is the sole authority to grant affiliation.

NPSSFW(I) regards trade unions of fishworkers the preferred form of organization to protect life and livelihood of small-scale fishworkers. Its relentless efforts are focused on developing trade unions of small-scale fishworkers all over the country. At the same time, it is willing to work with any association, cooperative or group of small-scale fishworkers to achieve its mission. NPSSFW(I)'s National Conference is its highest policy making body. It is convened once a year and all affiliated organizations are represented. The committee constitutes the national vouncil as the highest decision making body, operating through the year. At present the council has 27 members.

NPSSFW(I) constitutes its regional and state centres as and when necessary to attend to regional and state issues respectively. The national conference also proposes advisors to the NPSSFW(I) from experts on fisheries and related subjects. It has elected three office bearers: Pradip Chatterjee is the convenor; Soumen Ray is the national coordinator; and Dipak Dholakia is the coordinator in Delhi.

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Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 May 2019 at the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development:

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will depend upon a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors, andnoting in this regard the interest expressed in holding future conferences or events at a high level that would complement but not duplicate existing efforts and activities to support the implementation of and to maintain political momentum to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing the central role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development held under their auspices, as well as the significant role of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and the important contribution of all relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recalling also its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017, in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and in this regard affirming the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Recalling further that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental,

Recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recalling its call upon all stakeholders to urgently undertake, inter alia, the actions highlighted in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" and implement the respective voluntary commitments pledged by individual Member States and other stakeholders during the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,

Recalling also that the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, held from 10 to 19 July 2017, reviewed in depth Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14, as well as Goal 17, which is reviewed annually, and that the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was welcomed in the ministerial declaration of the 2017 high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the Council on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world",

Recognizing synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, Acknowledging the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a whole,

1. Decides to convene the high-level 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Lisbon, from 2 to 6 June 2020, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

2. Also decides that all costs relating to the Conference and its preparation shall be financed through extra budgetary resources;

3. Welcomes the generous offer by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal to co-host and assume the costs of the Conference;

4. Reiterates the call made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" for action to be taken on an urgent basis to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

5. Decides that the Conference shall:

(a) Build on existing successful partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships to advance the implementation of Goal 14;

(b) Support further action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, giving due consideration to the call made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action";

(c) Identify further ways and means to support the implementation of Goal 14;

(d) Involve all relevant stakeholders, bringing together Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, other interested international bodies, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations and other actors to assess challenges and opportunities relating to, as well as actions taken towards, the implementation of Goal 14;

(e) Share the experiences gained at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation of Goal 14.

Source: A/RES/73/292 - 2020 United Nations Conference to Support Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

https://www.un.org/en/conferences/ocean2020/documentation

INFOLOG: NEW RESOURCES AT ICSF

Publications

Addressing the climate change and poverty nexus

http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CA6968EN

Climate change threatens our ability to ensure global food security, eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. About 736 mn people live in extreme poverty, and the global response to climate change today will determine how we feed future generations.

Fishing for Catastrophe: Fishing for Catastrophe: How global aquacutlure supply chains are leading to the destruction of wild fish stocks and depriving people of food in India, Vietnam and the Gambia

http://changingmarkets.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CM-WEB-FINAL-FISHING-FOR-CATASTROPHE-2019.pdf

Based on findings from undercover investigations in Vietnam, India and The Gambia, this report presents damning evidence that the production of fishmeal and fish oil (FMFO) for use in the growing global aquaculture industry is destroying fish stocks, marine ecosystems and traditional livelihoods as well as undermining the food security of vulnerable communities.

Guidelines for increasing access of small-scale fisheries to insurance services in Asia: A handbook for insurance and fisheries stakeholders

http://www.fao.org/3/ca5129en/ca5129en.pdf

These Guidelines for increasing access of small-scale fisheries to insurance services in Asia have been developed to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines.

Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: sharing good practices from around the world

http://www.fao.org/voluntary-guidelines-small-scale-fisheries/resources/detail/en/c/1187395/

This document includes eight studies showcasing good practices in support of sustainable small-scale fisheries.

Competing for kayabo: gendered struggles for fish and livelihood on the shore of Lake Victoria

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40152-019-00146-1

The dry-salted trade of Nile perch or kayabo is important for many along the shores of Lake Victoria. The kayabo trade started in the 1990s and has been increasingly restructured due to changing regional and global trade relationships. This shift has led to the emergence of hierarchical trading relations, which create an exploitative network in which powerful middlemen control the access of trade for women from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and marginalizes the Tanzanian women, changing the organization from a poly-centric to a more centralized trade organization in the hands of a small group of powerful business men.

Videos

Women of the Shore

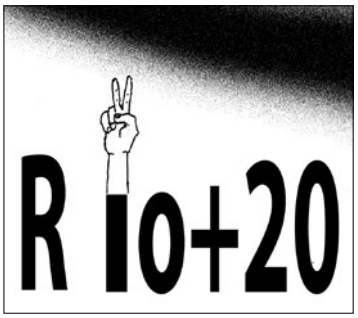
https://vimeo.com/164586942

In the island of Mindoro, fishing villages have been suffering from less fish day by day as women give birth to more and more children. This documentary explores the need for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights awareness amongst these communities, a way to give resilience to the mothers of the shore and the future they face.

FLASHBACK

A Human-rights Approach to Fisheries

The 'green economy' that Rio+20 hopes to focus on cannot afford to ignore a human-rights approach to sustainable fisheries



Twenty years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the United Nations (UN) is again bringing together governments, international institutions and major groups to Rio in June 2012 for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development or Rio+20. This time, the aim is to secure political commitment for sustainable development, assess progress since the Earth Summit, and look ahead 20 years.

Rio+20 will focus on how to build a green economy to achieve sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and how to improve international co-ordination for sustainable development (see page 4). So far, 147 Member States have been inscribed to speak at Rio+20. Of these, 108 are either heads of State or government, making the expected participation higher than the Johannesburg Summit in 2002.

As far as sustainable development of marine fisheries is concerned, since the Earth Summit, there have been four significant global developments worth mentioning: the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA); the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and the International Labour Organization's Work in Fishing Convention, 2007.

There are several international mechanisms building up on the first three developments, whose ramifications range from the global to the national and local levels. While too much attention has been given to the economic and environmental pillars of sustainable fisheries, the social pillar has been neglected. We hope Rio+20 will redress this imbalance. In order to strengthen the social pillar of sustainable development, particularly in fisheries, a human- rights approach is needed.

A human-rights approach towards sustainable fisheries will sufficiently emphasize the social dimension of sustainable fisheries. It will promote the contribution of marine living resources to eliminate malnutrition. It will recognize the importance of sustainable small-scale and artisanal fisheries, and protect the rights of subsistence, small-scale and artisanal men and women fishers and fishworkers to a secure and just livelihood, and ensure preferential access.

– from SAMUDRA Report No. 61, March 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

COFI-Committee on Fisheries Thirty-fourth Session 13-17 July 2020, Rome, Italy
http://www.fao.org/fishery/nems/41219/en

Technical meeting on the future of work in aquaculture in the context of the rural economy
https://www.ilo.org/sector/activities/sectoral-meetings/WCMS_726160/lang--en/index.htm

The meeting will discuss issues relating to the future of work in the aquaculture sector as well as to the promotion of decent work in the rural economy, with the aim of adopting conclusions, including recommendations for future action.

WEBSITES

Women and the ocean: Changemakers challenge

https://www.woi.economist.com/oceanwomen/

The World Ocean Initiative's Women and the ocean: Changemakers challenge, sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, aims to showcase leading female changemakers working to develop business solutions to achieve ocean-related sustainability. The goal is to ensure that women are visible across the ocean supply chain and that their contribution is recognized and elevated.

UN Sustainable Development Goals
https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/

17 Goals to Transform Our World: The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities.

INDAH RUFIATI

Endquote

"You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore" – from The Mansion (1959)

— William Faulkner